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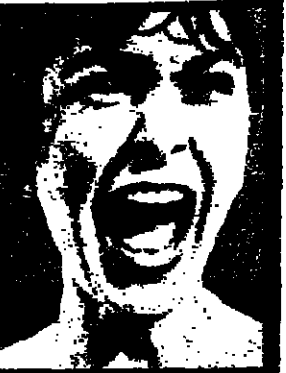
(IR50p) 45p

Spinning for Jesus: the revolutionary vicars REVIEW FRONT



Virginia Ironside: Psycho, the your dilemmas solved FEATURES, P8

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IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW WITH EDUCATION & OPEN EYE

UK may adopt Euro-inflation rules

THE GOVERNMENT is considering setting a new euro-inflation target for the Bank of England as a step on the way towards joining the single currency. A switch to the harmonised measure of inflation would pave the way for big cuts in British interest rates.

By DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

price inflation. Although no decision has yet been taken, the move could be announced in the March Budget, when Gordon Brown has to confirm the inflation target. Alternatively, the Chancellor could introduce a target either in the national changeover plan for Britain's possible entry into the euro, due to be published later this month, or in his annual Mansion House speech.

Adopting the same inflation target as the euro members is seen as an essential part of the preparation for eventual UK entry by Treasury officials. But the decision will also be taken as a clear signal of the Government's intention to join, making its timing sensitive.

If the euro-inflation measure is adopted, it would add to the pressure on the Bank of England to cut interest rates. UK inflation as measured by the "harmonised index of consumer prices" is just 1.4 per cent, well below the 2 per cent inflation target adopted by the European Central Bank (ECB).

The ECB has set a target which requires inflation on the harmonised measure to be below 2 per cent. The Government has set the Bank of England a target of 2.5 per cent for retail price inflation excluding mortgage interest payments, known as the RPIX, with up to 1 per cent deviation either way.

The harmonised price index was created after the Maastricht treaty so that European Union countries would have a directly comparable measure of inflation.

It is similar to the RPIX but includes goods such as computers whose price has been falling sharply, and is therefore lower.

The latest UK figures for inflation put the annual increase in the RPIX at 2.5 per cent, or just on target, in November, whereas the euro-inflation measure stood at just 1.4 per cent for the UK, or well below target. Interest rates in Britain are more than double the Euroland level, currently 3 per cent.

Even if the Bank does decide to cut rates from 6.25 per cent when the monthly meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee ends at noon today, the gap between the cost of loans in Britain and across the Channel will remain unusually large.

Blair: 'My ministers are united'

TONY BLAIR sought yesterday to reassert his authority over his feuding Cabinet and to put his New Labour project back on course by reaffirming his strong personal alliance with the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

By COLIN BROWN
in Pretoria
and ANDREW GRICE

and will always work as a team... this partnership is built to last," Mr Blair said. He insisted that he and Mr Brown were "closer than any chancellor and prime minister in living memory" and that Labour was "more ideologically united than at any time in its history".

Mr Blair insisted that his party's links with the Liberal Democrats would deepen, dashing the hopes of some Labour MPs following the departure of Mr Mandelson, a keen advocate of co-operation. "We are working closer and that will stay," he said.

Mr Blair denied any rift between him and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, following Mr Prescott's interview in *The Independent* last week in which he called for the Government to get away from spin-doctoring and back to "substance".

Mr Blair made it clear there would be no return to the "tax and spend" policies, despite Mr Prescott's declaration that the Government was now using public spending "to uphold the economy in the traditional Keynesian way". But he was said to be "relaxed" about Mr Prescott's remarks. Yesterday Mr Prescott dismissed as "non-sense" the idea that he had formed a pact with Mr Brown.

Mr Blair said: "I am not denying it has been a difficult week or two but these things happen. The important thing is that the Government stays focused on the things that really matter to people."

Leading article
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Drivers in the Dakar rally fan out across the Mauritanian desert in the fifth stage of the race, which ends on 17 January in Dakar, Senegal. Bruno Fablet/Presse Sports

Five-term year for schools

THE TRADITIONAL school year could be swept away for tens of thousands of schoolchildren, it emerged last night.

By BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

The change, under proposals drawn up by local authority leaders, would see autumn, spring and summer terms replaced by a five-term year.

Newham in east London could be the first borough to introduce the new terms, which would be in place by September next year if parents and teachers agree. Under the Newham

scheme, the six-week summer holiday would be cut to four. Children would also have four two-week holidays in October, December, March and May.

lan Harrison, Newham's director of education, said: "We agree with the Government that there appear to be certain advantages with a five-term year. The autumn term is extremely long at the moment and the summer break is very big, which may be good for staff but may not be so good for pupils."

Croydon council in south-west London will put similar proposals to parents next term, and could introduce the reform in 2001. Officials at Thurrock council in Essex are also considering the change.

Education officials said equal-length terms would cut truancy, raise standards and help stop parents taking term-time holidays.

Teachers' unions condemned the proposals and parents warned they may prove unworkable. Margaret Morrissey, spokeswoman for the National Association of Parent Teacher Associations, said: "A lot of working parents would welcome more evenly spread holidays, but people do like the long summer break. There could also be very great problems for people who need to make childcare arrangements."

UN arms inspection team 'spied for US'

THE FUTURE of Unscm, the United Nations disarmament mission in Iraq, was cast in fresh doubt last night after publication of allegations that intelligence it gathered on the security apparatus surrounding Saddam Hussein was secretly conveyed to the US.

By DAVID USBORNE
in New York

resented to the Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General. The claims triggered a crisis at UN headquarters, where a divided Security Council is struggling to formulate a new policy on Iraq since last month's bombardment by the US and Britain.

Behind the furor are suspicions that aides to the Secretary-General if not Mr Annan himself may wish to promote the claims to weaken Unscm and seek its replacement by a less aggressive mechanism while ousting its head, Richard Butler. Relations between Mr Annan and Mr Butler have been at rock bottom since the air attacks.

A spokesman confirmed Mr Annan approached Mr Butler about rumours of the leaks. Mr Butler reportedly denied it. While Unscm seeks assistance from countries including Britain, Israel and the US in its efforts to monitor activities in Iraq, it would be illegal for it to share any information it gathers with those governments.

Responding to the reports, in the *Washington Post* and *Boston Globe*, the UN spokesman denied the UN had evidence of wrongdoing. Mr Butler said the reports were unfounded: "Have we facilitated spying? Are we spies? Absolutely not," he told reporters.

Since 1995 Unscm has accepted technical help including the loan of American U-2 planes to eavesdrop on Iraq and its security operations. The question now is whether any of the information was passed to the US to help it in its efforts to destabilise the regime.

Mr Butler said Unscm had only ever sought help with a view to ridding Iraq of its prohibited weapons. "We have never accepted or used any of that assistance for any other purpose, not for any member-state's national purposes, but only for our purposes for seeking to bring about the disarmament of Iraq."

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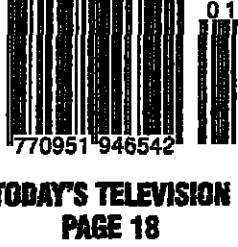
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THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE MCELVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH



Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott (left) pledged to recycle newspapers, bottles and cans to help protect the planet. He made a start by putting the House of Commons Christmas tree through the chipper in New Palace Yard, Westminster

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Gift of guns puts Olympics chief in firing line on corruption claim

BY JOHN DAVISON

THE GROWING scandal surrounding alleged corruption among members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday produced the first evidence that Juan Antonio Samaranch, its president, has not been immune to expensive gifts from those competing to stage the games.

Mr Samaranch admitted that he had received an inscribed pistol and a rifle on two separate visits to Salt Lake City, Utah, shortly before the American city secured the bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

The guns, said to be worth a total of around \$2,000, appear to be in clear contravention of IOC guidelines, which ban officials from accepting any gift worth more than \$150. Mr Samaranch has been consistently outspoken in condemning any corruption within the process since wider allegations emerged, and has repeatedly pledged to clean up the IOC act.

He recently said that a new selection procedure, which downgraded the role of the full 115-member committee, may have to be the outcome of the present scandal. Even after yesterday's admission, in response to press reports, he seemed unperturbed.

"I see no problem whatsoever since the important gifts I get will be placed in the Olympic Museum," he said.

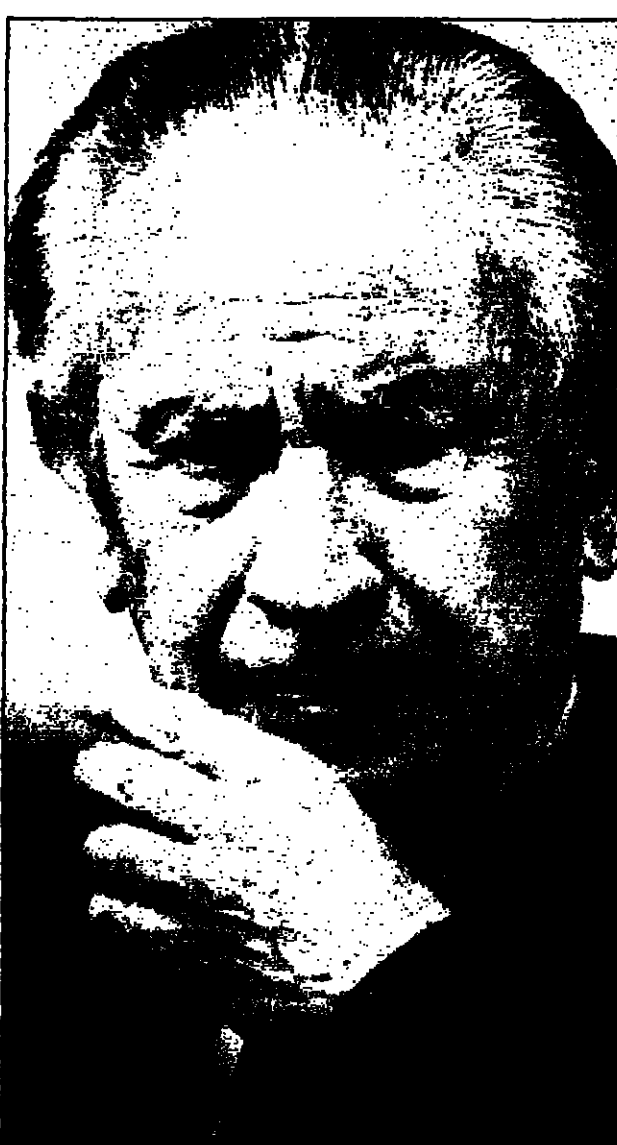
The broader picture, which has been steadily taking shape over the past month, involves committee members receiving gifts in return for their vital votes when lucrative decisions are taken on where to stage Olympic competitions.

With the Olympic shop estimated to generate \$10bn during each four-year cycle, it is not hard to see why temptation arises. The Salt Lake City bid alone is currently the subject of four different investigations. College and athletic scholarships for the relatives of members, free medical insurance and other gifts are all said to have been used to try and clinch that particular race.

Whatever the outcome of the various investigations - which are being carried out by, among others, the FBI and the former US senator George Mitchell, fresh from his role in the Northern Ireland peace process - the games will still go ahead in Utah for practical reasons.

Some cities that lost out, however, are now demanding compensation for the money they fruitlessly spent.

The whole issue is being seen as the worst scandal in the



Juan Antonio Samaranch, head of the IOC, (right) handing the Olympic flag to the Mayor of Salt Lake City during the closing ceremony of the Nagano games last February

Lake City and assured them of the votes," Mr Farnawani said.

Even the mayor of the city has admitted that the son of an IOC member from Swaziland was given an internship with one of the city's departments while attending the University of Utah. It has also been alleged that another delegate was one of the three African members who received free medical care - worth a total of \$28,000 - from the company that has become the health care provider for the 2002 games.

The fact that Mr Samaranch himself has now become marginally embroiled was given extra significance by statements from an Italian committee member, who said he sent a letter to Mr Samaranch last May outlining precise allegations of inducements. Far from investigating this, the Italian member said, the IOC president did not even respond.

The IOC's own investigation is being headed by Richard Pound, a member from Canada and a possible successor to Mr Samaranch, who is due to stand down in two years' time. This week he seemed very sure that at least some of the allegations were standing up.

"The IOC itself must show that it subscribes to the highest levels of ethical conduct," he said. "We will show that some of our members did not maintain those high standards. We have a few bad apples and we will get rid of them."

With all the various other investigators due to produce their own findings soon, the committee will have little choice. Mr Mitchell, chairman of the US Olympic Committee's ethics division, expects to report by the end of February.

Ironically, though the very pull of money that seems to have brought this particular global dream to its knees is also providing the impetus for sorting the matter out. Corporate sponsors, who regularly pitch \$100m for the honour of having their name associated with the Olympic image, exercise more muscle than mere moral dilemmas ever could.

Among the mightiest are Coca-Cola, whose representatives recently spoke in most uncompromising terms about what they expect the IOC to do.

"They have assured us they will take swift and decisive action, and we will monitor them to ensure that," said a Coca-Cola spokesman. For an organisation that is supposed to represent a vision of fair play for the whole of humanity, anything less than that would surely lead to its terminal decline.



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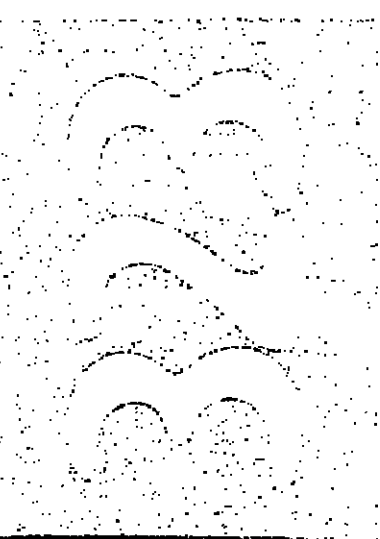
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Small victory for ramblers in battle with landowner

RAMBLERS GAINED a small victory yesterday over their avowed enemy, the wealthy East Sussex landowner Nicholas van Hoogstraten.

Led by the Labour MP Andrew Bennett, about 50 of them defied Mr van Hoogstraten's obstructions on the public footpath at his Framfield property by walking around them.

There were almost as many media representatives in attendance, plus a handful of police officers. But to their disappointment, there was no sign

of Mr van Hoogstraten nor of any of his employees who have previously warned off ramblers.

Mr van Hoogstraten, 53, has said he regards ramblers as "scumbags" and that any who came on to his land would be "viciously dealt with". Yesterday, however, he did not return calls and was believed to be in France with his family.

The ramblers had informed him of their plans to traverse the public footpath, which runs

for half a mile through his High Cross Estate and which has been blocked - they say illegally - for 10 years. A barn has been built across the path, a bridge over a stream has been removed and large steel refrigerator units have been used to form a barrier at the gate where the footpath begins.

But the walkers, led by Mr Bennett, who is the president of the Ramblers' Association and the joint chairman of the Commons Select Committee on the Environment, cut across

on to the estate. They walked along the footpath, concluding by climbing over a barrier with a sign: "Private property - keep out". Despite a recent hip replacement, Mr Bennett obliged the photographers by climbing over the obstructed gate several times.

He said: "I wanted to see the route for myself and then talk to the Environment Secretary, John Prescott, about what action his department will take against this bully."

"He must not get away with

THE PAY'S THE THING

NT Royal National Theatre

National Theatre.
Artistic Director:
Trevor Nunn
Grant 1999: £12.2m
Oliver Awards 1998: six
Staff: 650, including 170 actors
Number of theatres:
three
Big hits last year:
Oklahoma!; Tennessee Williams's *Not about Nightingales*; Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen*.
Big plans this year: *The Oresteia*; *Troilus and Cressida*, directed by Trevor Nunn in the main Olivier Theatre.

RSC ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Royal Shakespeare Company.
Artistic Director:
Adrian Noble
Grant 1999: £8.8m
Oliver Awards 1998: none
Staff: 750, including 100 actors
Theatres: five
Big hits last year: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *School for Scandal*; *Hamlet*.
Big plans this year: *King Lear* (Nigel Hawthorne) *Antony and Cleopatra* (Alan Bates, Frances de la Tour).

RSC goes to war against National

BRITAIN'S TWO best-known theatre companies were locked in a suitably erudite row last night - over who knows best how to stage Shakespeare.

Behind the disagreement is the Royal Shakespeare Company's simmering resentment that the Arts Council chairman, Gerry Robinson, has praised the National Theatre and given it a huge uplift in grant, while giving the RSC much less.

Yesterday, a senior figure in the Royal Shakespeare Company, associate director Michael Attenborough, said that the National Theatre had not had any successes with Shakespeare productions on its main stages.

And next week RSC artistic director Adrian Noble will tell Mr Robinson that his company has not only delivered artistically, it has acted in line with the Labour Party and government policy of taking theatre to new audiences, and particularly to young people.

The RSC's grant has increased by only 5 per cent to £8.8m, while the National has received a 9 per cent increase of £11m, which will take its Arts Council grant to £12.2m. When he announced the grants recently, Mr Robinson painted the two companies in very different lights.

He said: "The RSC has prob-



'The Winter's Tale' by the RSC: The company is locked in a row with the National Theatre over who stages the best Shakespeare. N Norrington

lems. It needs help. Their problems are substantial and not even an increase of 10 per cent would have been enough to sort them out. It has taken on too much."

By contrast, he said of the National: "The National Theatre has coped brilliantly with standstill funding for the past five years, and the quality of its work and success at attracting new audiences argued strongly for an increase of this kind."

Launching his new season yesterday, Adrian Noble pointedly stressed that the RSC had acted in accordance with Labour Party policy by moving out of London for half of the year and taking its work around the country. He also pointed out that the National runs three theatres in its building on the South Bank in London while the RSC has three in Stratford-upon-Avon and two at the Barbican Centre in the capital, as well as having residencies in Newcastle and Plymouth.

He said: "We have taken our productions to the regions. And 40,000 people have come to Stratford for the first time this year. Many of these have been young people."

An RSC insider added: "It's

not so much the difference in money that's the problem. It's the National being lauded like that."

And as the RSC announced details of their new season yesterday, Mr Attenborough made a point of saying: "The National has not had a single successful production of Shakespeare on its main stages in the last 10 years."

That will sting the National, which has put on *King Lear*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Richard III*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* in its main auditoria.

Mr Attenborough later qualified his statement by agreeing that Deborah Warner's production of *King Lear* and Ian McKellen in *Richard III* had had some success, though mixed reviews. But he said that only the RSC really knew how to produce Shakespeare on large stages in front of big audiences.

One senior RSC insider said that when the National had a critical flop last year with Helen

Mirren and Alan Rickman in *Antony and Cleopatra*, "a lot of us in Stratford were saying to each other 'now they know it's not that easy'."

The RSC yesterday announced one of their starriest years for a long time, of which one of the highlights will be *Antony and Cleopatra* starring Alan Bates and Frances de la Tour. The newly knighted Nigel Hawthorne will star in *King Lear*, directed by Japan's Yukio Ninagawa (a co-production with West End producer Thelma Holt); the first RSC production of *Othello* for 14 years will place black actor Ray Fearon in the title role, and *Timon of Athens* will play in the main house for the first time since 1965. There will also be an adaptation of Ted Hughes's *Tales Of Ovid*. The late poet laureate was working on this with RSC staff just days before his death.

The National will also be staging a Ted Hughes adaptation, his version of the *Oresteia*. Adrian Noble said he would be meeting Mr Robinson next

Litany of disgust over airline meals

IT'S OFFICIAL: your in-flight meal is revolting. Or to be more specific, the food served on the transatlantic slog is a leathery congealed, fibrous form of "gastronomic murder".

Egon Ronay, the doyen of food critics and scourge of gastronomic mediocrity for more than four decades, has finally come to the conclusion most of us reached the first time we tasted a flaccid chicken fillet at £2,000.

"The food," he said yesterday, after he and his team had travelled back and forth across the Atlantic several times, "was mostly unacceptable."

Mr Ronay went on to expound on his litany of disgust, with airlines from British Airways to Northwest via KLM

and United being accused of serving everything from coagulated beef to synthetic desserts and overcooked pasta.

The BA lunch was "an unmitigated disaster", and even Air France's in-flight meal was "pitiful", he said.

Britain has had plenty of reasons to be grateful to Mr Ronay, a Hungarian immigrant whose culinary helped to transform the national cuisine in the postwar years.

In this particular case, though, unless they are one of the chosen few up front, any diner is likely to conclude that the only reason airlines serve food at all is to keep the passengers from getting too drunk.

But why is it so bad? Partly, as Mr Ronay acknowledges, it's because it is cooked on the ground, chilled, then reheated. But the key may lie in his conclusion that the problem is about a lack of originality.

"I don't know why airlines are so set on serving hot food," says Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, a restaurant critic at *The Independent* on Sunday.

The sandwich cabinet at Marks and Spencer, he says, is more appealing than any economy class menu.

But airlines, through their own research, are determined to serve hot food, though there is no legal requirement to serve passengers even so much as an *amuse-gueule* on any flight, however long.

Hormonal 'alarm clock' is the key to waking on time

SCIENTISTS HAVE discovered that the body has an internal "alarm clock" which can be "set" before people go to sleep.

The discovery shows that waking up from a night's sleep can be consciously controlled so individuals can force themselves out of bed if they really have to.

A study of a group of healthy volunteers has shown that the body's alarm clock begins to alert sleepers to the anticipated waking-up time about an hour beforehand.

Rising levels of adrenocorticotropin, a hormone released during the day to deal with stress, start to prepare sleepers for the biological wake-up call, according to Jan Born, professor of neuroendocrinology at

the University of Lübeck in Germany.

When the volunteers were told to wake up at 6am, their hormone levels began to rise about an hour beforehand, but when told they would have to wake at 9am, hormone levels began rising at 8am.

"The regulation of adrenocorticotropin release during nocturnal sleep is therefore not confined to daily rhythms; it also reflects a preparatory process in anticipation of the end of sleep," Professor Born and his colleagues report in the journal *Nature*.

Adrenocorticotropin is known to prepare the body for a stressful event during the day and now seems to be involved in getting the body ready for the "stress" of waking up, Professor Born said.

"This system is suppressed in the early hours of sleep but becomes activated in the later hours of sleep, just before someone wakes up. It is a completely new view of sleep," he said.

What makes the finding important is the discovery of an element of conscious control over when the hormone is released - the results show people can clearly distinguish between an anticipated sleep time of either six or nine hours.

"The increase of adrenocorticotropin release before

the expected time of waking indicates that anticipation, generally considered to be a unique characteristic of the regulation of conscious action, pervades sleep," the researchers report.

Professor Born said there must be a biological mechanism controlling the clock, to inform the body about how much time has been spent asleep, but "it must be a very slow-acting clock and we have no idea what it could be," he said.

The next stage of the research is to determine how brain activity can influence the release of the hormone which could enable the researchers to devise a way of helping people who find it difficult to wake up in the morning.



Egon Ronay: Air France food was 'pitiful'

IN BRIEF

Two more meningitis victims
A BABY girl and a boy, 16, died yesterday from meningitis. The eight-month-old girl died at her Birmingham home while Trevor Stockton died in hospital in Macclesfield, Cheshire. They bring to 12 the number of people known to have died from meningitis over Christmas and the New Year.

Scheduled flight delays increase
DELAYS TO scheduled flights at London's five main airports rose from 13 to 16 minutes during the summer but charter flight delays fell to 38 minutes from 46, according to figures published by the Civil Aviation Authority yesterday.

Viking exhibit thrown away
A 12TH-CENTURY Viking ship's plank, recovered from the River Liffey, was accidentally thrown out by a workman instead of being moved from Ireland's National Museum to a store room. Searches of a dump have proved fruitless.

Prince Edward to marry
PRINCE EDWARD yesterday announced his engagement to his girlfriend of five years, Sophie Rhys-Jones. The couple are hoping to marry at St George's Chapel, Windsor, in the late spring or summer.

Call for schools to allow naughtiness

SCHOOLS SHOULD allow children to be naughty and to break rules to help them become confident adults, a management guru said yesterday.

Charles Handy told the North of England education conference in Sunderland that teachers who connived at rule-breaking might be encouraging the entrepreneurs of the future. He described how a 13-year-old boy who was allowed to sell pirate videos at school became a highly successful businessman.

Mr Handy, conference president and author of business management books, said: "Schools are protected proving zones and should let pupils get

Call for schools to allow naughtiness

away with a bit of naughtiness ... Thinking outside the box in adult life is often the equivalent of a little naughtiness in a child."

Mr Handy said non-conformity would help people survive in the confusing world of market capitalism, and good grades should be only part of education.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, accused Mr Handy of inciting riots in the classroom. "Heaven protect the education service from nonsense like this," he said.

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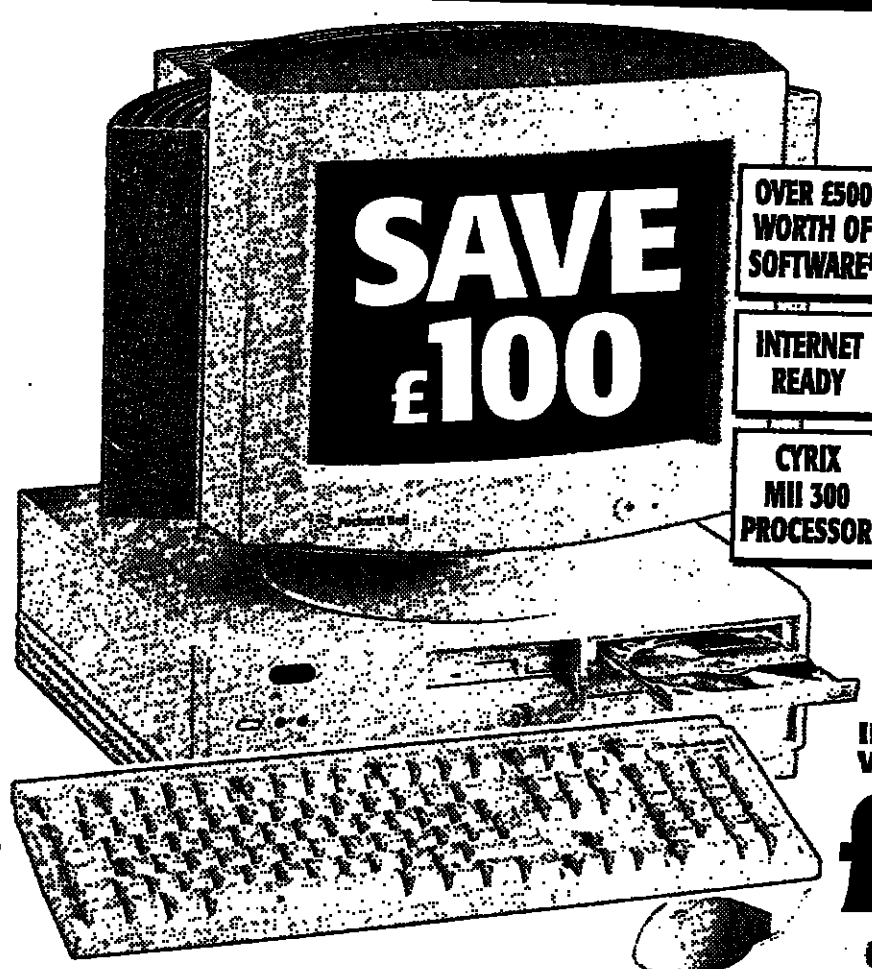
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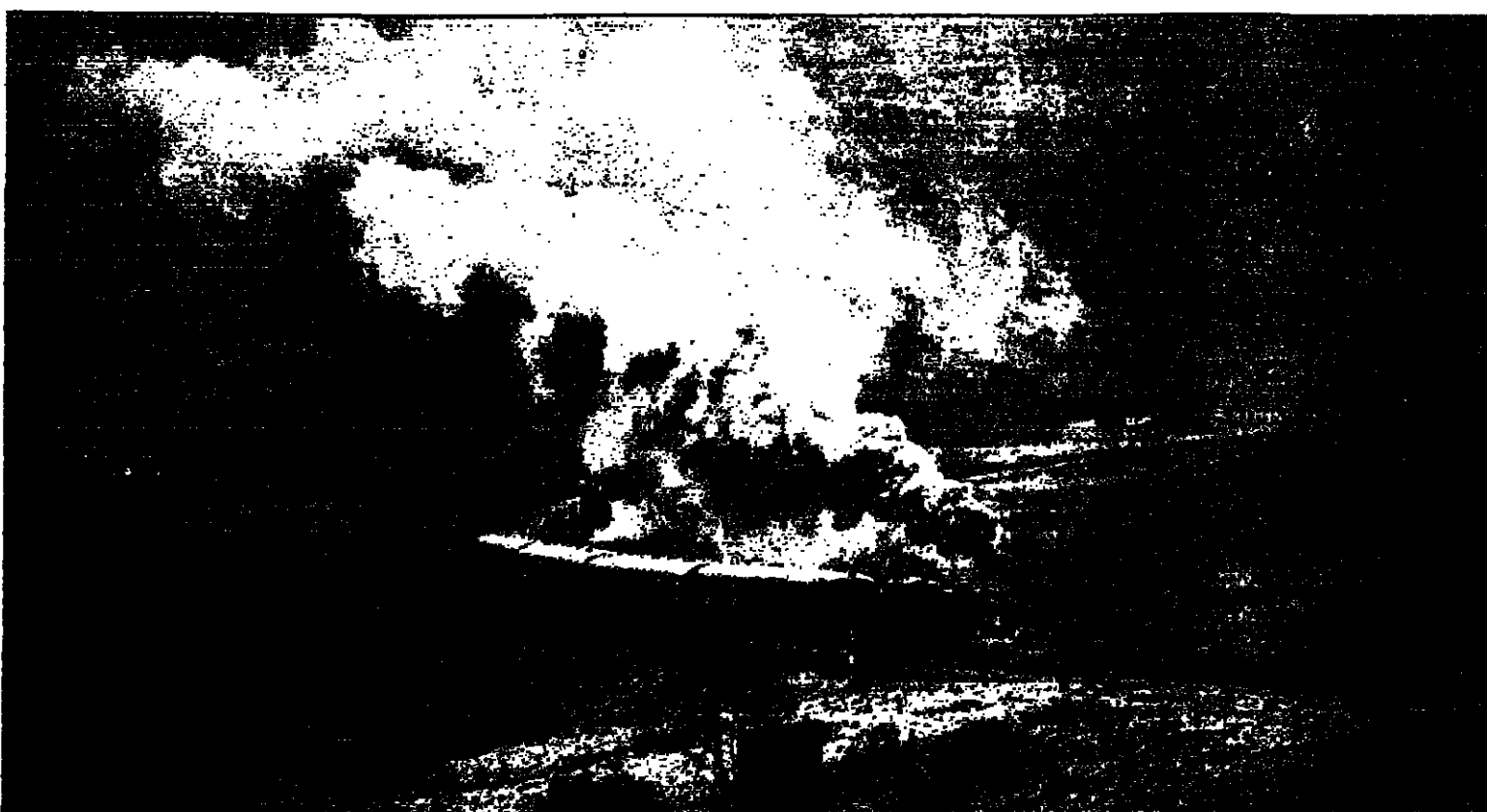
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Steam returns for commuters after 30 years



A train on the private North Yorkshire Moors Railway. The firm's expertise has been used to train drivers for the new service. Tony Bartholomew

FOR THOUSANDS of school children - and grown men - it would be a dream come true. Six train drivers who usually operate humble diesel commuter services are to bring steam back to a scenic North Yorkshire line this summer.

In a unique partnership between a privatised train firm and a heritage railway, steam trains will return to Whitby, the historic port town, for the first time in 30 years.

Northern Spirit, which runs commuter trains across north-east England, is working with the North Yorkshire Moors Railway to run the trains from Pickering to Whitby.

The rail companies are working with the North Yorkshire Moors National Park and local authorities to seal a deal with Railtrack to upgrade signalling at Grosmont, where the heritage line from Pickering meets the main line from Middlesbrough that runs along the Esk valley to Whitby.

Six Northern Spirit drivers volunteered to be trained to operate the steam trains. They completed a three-week course

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

on firemen's duties, driving mainline steam trains, safety rules and mechanics. They will share the roles of drivers, firemen and conductors.

A spokesman for Northern Spirit, Gary Callaghan, said: "There has been no shortage of our staff wanting to drive the new service. It is certainly bringing out the boy in some of our drivers."

A successful trial run - sold out weeks in advance - between Pickering and Whitby in November last year carried 309 enthusiasts on the *Captain Cook Pullman*, staffed by three of the newly trained crew, Chris Cubitt, Ginner Beavers and Roy Lingham. Mr Callaghan said: "We had sold out of tickets within three hours. The demand was amazing."

The two rail organisations now hope to run a programme of Sunday evening trains this summer that may tie in with North Yorkshire Moors Railway's dining services. It should go some way to meet the nostalgic

demand for steam captured in films such as *The Railway Children* and *Brief Encounter*.

David Bishop, Northern Spirit's general manager, said: "The Esk valley route is one of the most scenic railways in Britain. This link-up with the North Yorkshire Valley Railway will allow us to run additional services to meet the increasing demand for leisure travel to this lovely part of Yorkshire."

Chris Hudson, of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, said: "There is nothing better than to see a steam engine winding its way through the North Yorkshire countryside. There is a lot more life in a steam train than in a smelly old diesel."

A service between Pickering and Whitby first ran on 26 May 1836, when thousands of people turned out to cheer a horse pulling a coach at about 10 miles an hour. The subsequent 30-mile rail line immediately became a popular success, but it was closed in the Sixties under the Beeching cutbacks.

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway was reopened in 1973, catering for a large tourist trade.

Rail firm surveys 'focus on trivia'

A FRESH crackdown on the privatised rail industry is to be launched by the Government, which is setting up a national customer satisfaction survey to identify failing train companies.

The new system will ensure that regulators can make effective comparisons between all 25 passenger train companies.

Ministers are unhappy with the current system under which train firms are obliged to carry out customer surveys twice a year but are allowed to set the questions and decide how they are published.

The move came as the Consumers' Association yesterday accused train companies of focusing on trivia, when customers wanted punctual trains and a comfortable journey.

According to passengers questioned for the association's *Which?* magazine, train punctuality and availability of seats should be rail companies' priorities. However, some companies asked passengers about the appearance of their staff and the quality of food. Customers in the *Which?* survey showed little interest in these issues.

A spokesman for the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions accepted the current surveys had "limitations", especially because they made it difficult to make national comparisons.

He added: "We are going to introduce a new passenger survey to find out what passengers think about rail services and to help measure performance across the network."

The results would be used alongside punctuality and reliability figures to judge train companies under new rules being brought in by the Government in response to a decline in train performance.

The Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opfr) has put out tenders for research to find out which areas passengers want covered. A pilot study

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

would be run before any national scheme was established.

Helen Parker, the editor of *Which?*, said: "Rail companies' current passenger surveys are close to useless. They should be the responsibility of the regulator, not the companies."

She said the surveys took no account of changes since rail privatisation, making it hard to get an accurate picture of customer satisfaction levels.

Which? found that of the 21 companies whose surveys were published by Opfr in August, only 13 asked about overcrowding, nine about frequency and eight about information provided on late or cancelled services. These topped the list in the *Which?* survey of passenger priorities.

Which? gave questionnaires to 823 commuters during rush hours on four days during September 1998 at nine major rail stations. The survey showed:

■ More than a third had been late for work at least once in the previous week because of train delays;

■ 40 per cent had to stand during their journey at least once a week;

■ 15 per cent could not sit down on between half and all of their journeys.

The Association of Train Operating Companies (Atoc) attacked the *Which?* survey as "biased and too narrow to draw meaningful conclusions". It said one train company alone interviewed six times as many people as *Which?* did for its survey.

Ivor Warburton, Atoc chairman, said: "Existing surveys are not useless or trivial but can be improved on. Some standardisation in survey questioning is to be welcomed."

"The needs of customers vary according to the type of rail service - long distance, commuter or rural."

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8/HOME NEWS

Four attacked in N Ireland 'punishment shootings'

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

THE LATEST round of so-called "punishment attacks" in Belfast has brought renewed political condemnation of a practice which is now regarded as a matter of routine in areas where paramilitary groups hold sway.

Both the IRA and major loyalist groups such as the UVF and UDA continue to be involved in shootings and beatings of people, usually young men, whom they deem to be involved in "anti-social activity".

In the latest incidents four men were injured in two attacks in Belfast and the nearby town of Antrim. In the first incident a man was abducted from the Falls Road, while another was bundled into a car in the Ballymurphy area of west Belfast.

The two men, aged 27 and 29, were taken to an alleyway, where they each received one gunshot wound to the leg. They were being treated in hospital yesterday. The attack is assumed to be the work of the IRA: the group does not publicly admit involvement in such activities but it is an open secret that it carries out beatings and shootings.

In the second incident five masked men, one of whom carried a gun, burst into a flat in Donegore Drive in Antrim town. Two men in the flat were taken into the kitchen and beaten with metal bars and other implements, suffering head and leg injuries. In this instance loyalists are the prime suspects.

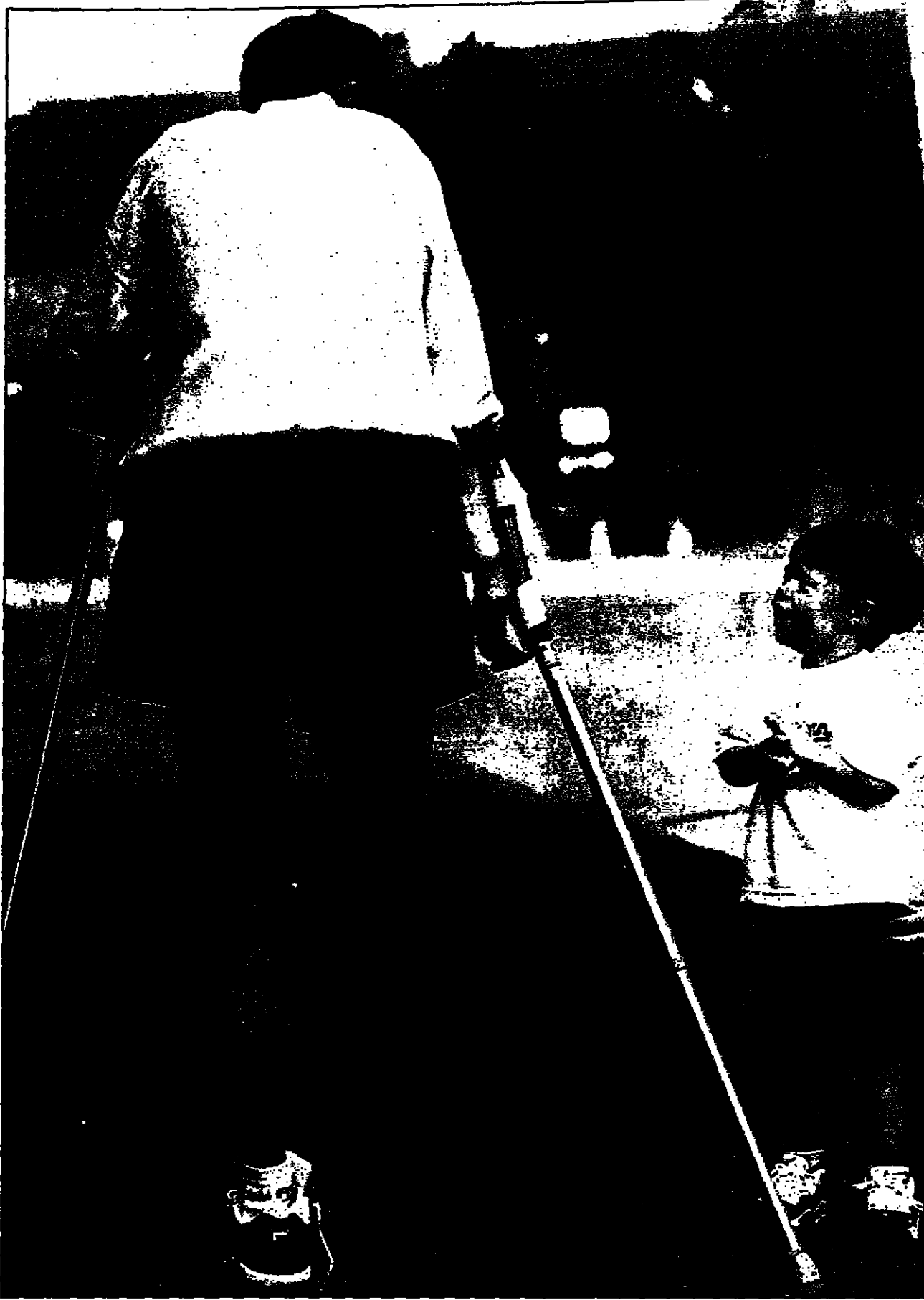
Most such attacks are, however, carried out by paramilitaries. According to the Royal Ulster Constabulary, last year saw 51 beatings and 33 shootings by republicans and 86 beatings and 34 shootings by loyalists. These figures represent a decrease on 1996 figures, which totalled 320.

Many of the attacks cause permanent injury and scarring, and in a number of cases limbs have been lost when doctors removed legs after "kneecappings".

In some cases there have been deaths, as happened last summer, when a north Belfast man, Andrew Kearney, died of death after being shot in both legs. The Kearney attack reportedly followed a quarrel he had with a senior IRA figure.

In 1997 a Belfast Presbyterian minister, wrongly suspected of being a paedophile, died after being attacked by loyalists who inflicted two broken legs, a suspected fractured skull and puncture wounds.

Most of the attacks are said to be carried out on individuals suspected of involvement in activities such as joyriding, burglaries and drugs, though some have a personal element. One man who was seriously injured is said to have been attacked because he played loud music which disturbed the grandmother of a loyalist paramilitary figure.



The victim of an IRA 'punishment squad' that used a shotgun in the attack in Belfast

Pace-maker

Yesterday: "Everybody shrugs and says they must have done something pretty bad for the Provos to shoot them, that they weren't shot for nothing. People here generally approve of it, or more often they don't really care. There is no outrage about it - the only outrage comes from politicians."

A workman was slightly injured yesterday when a small device exploded in the grounds of a Catholic sporting club at Magherafelt, Co Londonderry.

The man is said to have lifted a concrete block which had apparently been boobytrapped. The incident bears the hallmarks of a loyalist attack. Sinn Féin said the incident was the latest in a series of attacks on nationalist targets in the area in recent months.

A renegade loyalist group claimed responsibility. The Orange Volunteers said they planted a booby-trap bomb in the grounds of the club. In a coded statement the

group said: "The wider nationalist community now have everything to fear now the siege of Ulster continues, with the British government abandoning the loyalist people and the Irish government standing up for republicans, the Orange Volunteers are ready to defend our people."

Police said a bomb warning had been telephoned to the club yesterday but when officers searched the grounds nothing was found.

HIGH COST IN HEALTH AND HOUSING

SHOOTINGS, beatings and continuing terrorism cost Northern Ireland millions of pounds last year, according to latest figures.

Information released by the pressure group Families Against Intimidation suggests there were more than 70 shootings, more than 150 beatings and more than 250 instances of intimidation carried out as "punishment".

The figures also show that such acts of violence cost about £3.1m in hospital treatment and compensation for victims. A further £4.15m was spent on rehousing civilians and members of the security forces. More than £1.5m was spent relocating civilians who were forced to leave the country. "Terrorists continue to abuse the trust of the majority of people in Northern Ireland who voted for an end to terrorism in the referendum," said a spokesman.

Shootings and beatings carried out by the IRA and Loyalists 1972-1998:

Year	Loyalist	IRA	Total
1972	21	53	74
1974	43	84	127
1975	50	139	189
1976	36	62	98
1977	38	98	136
1978	37	50	87
1979	29	51	76
1980	38	51	89
1981	24	56	80
1982	22	58	80
1983	9	22	31
1984	5	20	25
1985	11	21	32
1986	24	17	41
1987	87	37	123
1988	34	32	66
1989	85	96	181
1990	60	48	108
1991	40	36	76
1992	73	60	133
1993	57	27	84
1994	38	32	70
1995	76	141	217
1996	130	172	302
1997	77	78	155
1998	119	118	237

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		Manchester*	£82
		Manchester Airport	£100
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		Preston	£84
		Sheffield	£90
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		Wakefield	£82
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		Brentwood	£108
		Cambridge	£96
		Colchester	£92
		Epping	£90
		Grays	£88
		Harlow	£88
		Northampton	£78
		Peterborough	£78
		Stevenage	£84
		Central England	3 nights
		Aylesbury	£88
		Birmingham	£78
		Birmingham Airport	£114
		Birmingham City*	£96
		Coventry	£90
		Derby/Burton*	£88
		Gloucester	£92
		High Wycombe	£90
		Leicester	£78
		Lincoln*	£82
		Milton Keynes	£94
		Nottingham City	£98
		Nottingham/Derby	£88
		Walsall* (The Boundary)	£82
		Scotland, Ireland and Wales	3 nights
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		Belfast	£74
		Cardiff*	£88
		Cardiff City*	£96
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		Edinburgh*	£110
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		Glasgow City	£78
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'Make 'em laugh' and win your staff's heart

IF YOU want to lead your employees into a bright new future, "make 'em laugh".

Intelligence and attractiveness go a long way when managers are trying to introduce changes, but the most potent weapon is humour, according to a psychologist.

If executives are running organisations which are simply ticking over - so called "transactional leadership" - then the fun factor is unimportant.

But when the chips are down and managers are trying to show "transformational leadership", jokes go a long way in motivating staff, the annual conference of the British Psychological Society (BPS) heard.

"The transformational leader makes subordinates feel that he

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

or she cares about them. Such a person does not simply say: "You are paid to do the job so get on with it" - they present a vision of the future. The advantage is that workers gain job satisfaction and perform better," said Howard Taylor, head of psychology at Chilterns University College in Buckinghamshire.

In a study of the attitude of Air Training Corps cadets to their officers, Mr Taylor found that intelligence, attractiveness and humour all rated highly, but humour was virtually synonymous with leadership.

Mr Taylor said that researchers were surprised with

their findings given the strict hierarchical structure in any military organisation.

He conceded that while humour could be a means of cementing "group cohesion", it could also underline the leader's dominance. Sometimes there was a "victim" of the joke.

He said that senior fire-fighters often used humour, although the jokes could be of a "macho" nature.

British managers are becoming more like their US counterparts, the BPS heard.

Organisations have become increasingly "systematised" and there is increasing recognition that managers are professionals, said Barbara Senior of Nene University College, Northampton.

Bosses 'stigmatise' tenants

CLEVER COUNCIL tenants are

condemned to do far worse in the world of work than their intellectual equals who own their own homes, according to the latest research.

Residents on council estates with high IQs are affected by a damaging sub-culture which promotes "anti-social, resentful and aggressive" behaviour, the conference of the British Psychological Society heard.

BY BARRIE CLEMENT

Mark Cook of the University of Wales, Swansea, said talented people who live on council estates were often unemployed and those who worked were fed up with the job they were doing.

Dr Cook, a lecturer in psychology, said that "residential segregation" was a far more important factor in predicting employment success than

social class. Talented working class home owners invariably did better than their counterparts on council estates.

Dr Cook called for more mixed housing and greater understanding from employers. "A person might have a chip on his shoulder, but might also be talented. Unfortunately they are often dropped by employers as soon as they get a bit awkward," he said.

Bullies and Blockers: Back Off!

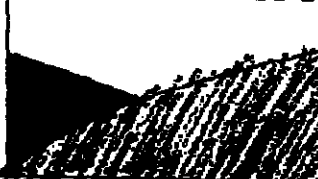
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IND2

Too much sex on the TV, viewers say

CONFESIONAL TELEVISION talk-shows are facing criticism again, this time over their perceived obsession with sex, research launched by the Broadcasting Standards Commission (BSC) revealed yesterday.

It found there is only so much sex a person can take and it appears that limit has been reached, as viewers' tolerance of endless chat on Jerry Springer, Ricki Lake and their like about how "my girlfriend is a man" or "I can't get enough and it's driving my husband bonkers" is ebbing fast.

Sex and Sensibility, which provides insight into viewers' attitudes towards the depiction of sex on television, says most people accept sex as a fact of broadcasting life. However, there has been an increase in the past year in the numbers (from 32 per cent to 36 per cent) believing there is too much on British screens, particularly on talk-shows.

A teenage girl interviewed said: "It's like a Marks & Spencer sandwich - an everyday thing." Another female from the 16- to 24 age group said: "The majority of times you turn the TV on, you can guarantee that sex will come up in the programme; there are a lot of other things the early-evening shows could talk about."

Lady Howe, chairwoman of the BSC, warned broadcasters that they needed to listen to viewers' concerns. "People accept sex as a fact of life, some even readily enjoy it," she said. "But that does not mean they want to see it on the hour every hour. Like everything else, a balanced diet is a healthy diet."

Although tolerance varied by age and gender (older people and women were less comfortable with on-screen sex), the vast majority (78 per cent) felt depiction was justified provided it was integral to the story.

BY RHYS WILLIAMS

Half of those viewers presented with a homosexual kiss on *EastEnders* felt it was acceptable, although two-thirds thought it should have been transmitted after the 9pm watershed.

This programme and similar storylines on *Brookside* have helped, the report says, to create a more equitable view of homosexuality on television. In 1992, the last time the survey was carried out, less than half said it was acceptable to show gay relationships on screen. Fifty eight per cent believe it is suitable today.

Overall, audiences take a cynical view of broadcasters' intentions in depicting sex, nearly three-quarters saying it is used as a cheap stunt to boost ratings. The report paints a picture of broad satisfaction with the current television regime governing sex. The 9pm watershed is well understood, as are the many warnings now made at the beginning of programmes. Controversy surrounding on-screen sex has been a broadcasting constant since the Pilkington Report bemoaned falling moral standards and talked about television's "preoccupation with the sordid and sleazy".

Television drama in the 1960s was placed in the hands of writers like Ken Loach, Dennis Potter and Harold Pinter, feisty auteurs who assaulted the senses with gritty tales laced with sexual realism.

They led the way for the wholesale adoption of sex as a legitimate theme for mainstream popular entertainment, to the extent that it now permeates practically every genre of programming, from late-night exercises in mass titillation (*Eurotrash*) to cerebral factual programming like *Anatomy of Desire*, as well as drama and film.



Some of the scenes that caused controversy in the debate over the depiction of sex on the small screen. Clockwise from top left: 'Brookside', 'The Singing Detective', 'Up the Junction', 'I, Claudius' and 'This Life'



THE NAKED AND THE PANNED

Up the Junction
The "Swinging Sixties" resulted in a rash of dramas that drew heavily on sexual realism. Nell Dunn's *Up the Junction*, with its scene of a backstreet abortion, was one of the first programmes to attract the wrath of Mary Whitehouse.

Casanova
Mrs Whitehouse popped up again to condemn the "lewdness" of this 1971 six-part series starring Frank Finlay opposite women in varying states of undress.

Bouquet of Barbed Wire
Frank Finlay appeared to be making a career out of sex. Now incest featured in this 1976 series seen by 20 million viewers.

I, Claudius
BBC2's *I, Claudius* was a high-class production, starring Derek Jacobi and John

Hurt packed with murder, incest and lots of orgies.

The Singing Detective
Take your pick from Dennis Potter's canon but most people tend to remember 1986's *The Singing Detective* and Patrick Malahide's bare backside.

Brookside/EastEnders
Both series' depictions of homosexuality marked big development in the presentation of taboos. And the fact that lesbian (*Brookside*) and gay (*EastEnders*) kisses were met with minimal fuss showed how far viewers' tolerance had come.

This Life
Amy Jenkins' series was packed full of excess but one area it made real progress in was the graphic portrayal of gay sex, which it achieved with an almost casual insouciance.

Snow saves climber in 800ft plunge

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

A WOMAN student was in hospital with spinal injuries yesterday after an 800-foot slide down a snow-covered mountain above Glencoe in the Scottish Highlands. Soft snow cushioned her boulder-strewn steep ground, probably saving her life.

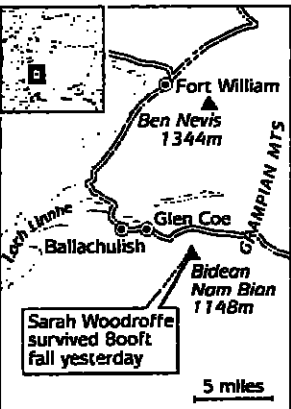
Sarah Woodroffe, 20, who is studying at Durham University, was descending Bidean Nam Bian, the highest peak in the area, when she slipped and fell late on Tuesday afternoon. Her companion, a man from Hertfordshire, tried to raise the alarm, but was unable to descend the mountain due to falling light.

Passing climbers heard their calls for help and alerted mountain rescue teams. Ms Woodroffe was airlifted to Belford Hospital, Fort William, suffering from a fracture to the cervical spine and also to the left knee cap. She was later transferred for specialist treatment at Southern General Hospital in Glasgow, and is expected to "walk out" of its spinal unit in two to three weeks.

Slips on steep ground are the commonest cause of accidents in the Scottish hills. Survival is then a matter of luck and the type of terrain the victim hurries down; the fewer the rocks, the better the chances. On New Year's Day, Michael Burnham, 26, an engineer from Bristol, fell more than 900ft down Sgorr Dhearg, another Glencoe peak, and escaped with minor injuries. But only a few miles away Paul Fooks, 38, from Nottingham, slid 1,500ft to his death on Sgurr a' Mhaim.

Paul Williams, secretary of the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team, said Ms Woodroffe and her companion were descending from the summit of Bidean when she slipped at around 3,000 feet. "Her injuries could have been far worse," he said. "If the snow had been rock hard she would have gone off like a rocket."

Weather conditions were "generally mild", but the rescue operation was hampered by mist, making it difficult for the helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth to land. Ms Woodroffe had to be carried by team members almost to the main road. Ms Woodroffe was among a



group of 12 to 15 people, including some other members of Durham University mountaineering club, on a privately arranged holiday in the area. They had split into smaller groups for the day and were due to meet in the late afternoon.

"When they did not arrive, the alarm was raised by the others," said university spokesman Keith Seacroft.

Ms Woodroffe, from Lincoln, is a second-year geography student. She is a qualified trainee for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Scheme and before going to Durham, spent four months in Switzerland helping to organise activities in the Alps for the Guide Association.

In a separate incident, a rescue helicopter was scrambled from RAF Lossiemouth as darkness fell last night after a rucksack and its contents were found on Ben Nevis. No one had been reported missing, but members of the Lochaber mountain-rescue team were flown to the area to begin a search.

For all the horrors of the New Year holiday period, serious accidents are falling as a proportion of those going out on the Scottish hills to walk and climb. Kevin Howett, national officer for the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, reckons the number of hillgoers has at least doubled. On a fine weekend day, there may be 50,000 people at play in the Highlands. However, the number of fatalities has fallen from around 45 a year in the early Nineties to 25 last year.

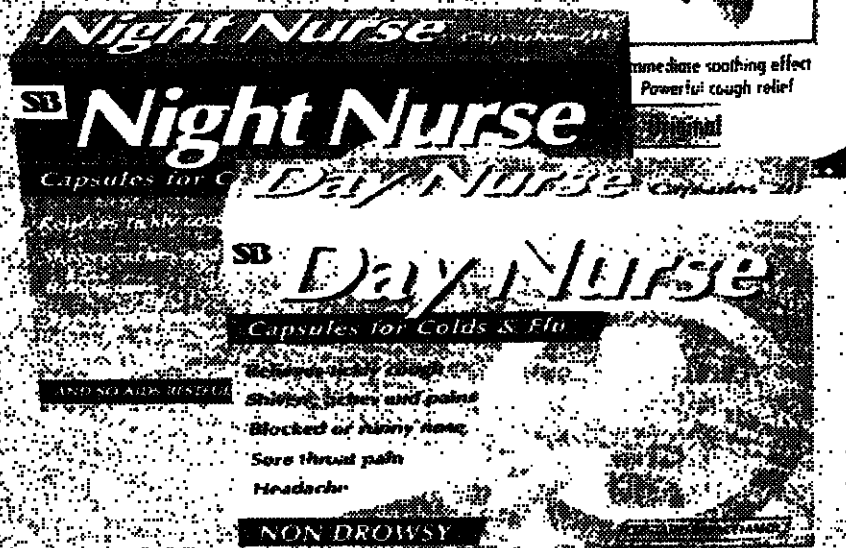
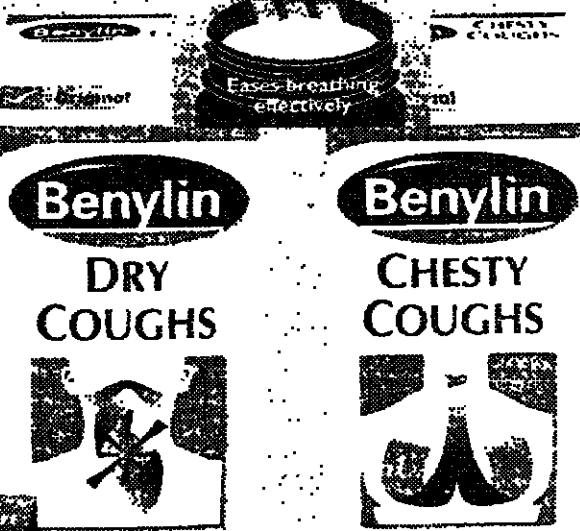
Mr Howett said: "People are better equipped - very few people are going up the Ben (Nevis) in high heels, and the effort ... in trying to educate people about the risks seems to have paid off."

Winter

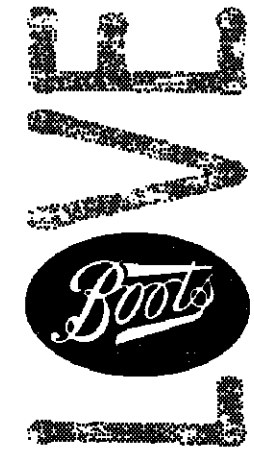
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THE SENATE trial of Bill Clinton, the 42nd President of the United States, is set to open today amid much media fanfare, minimal sense of drama and still less public concern. Only the second impeachment trial of a president

in US history and the first this century, the trial became inevitable yesterday after the failure of last-minute efforts by Republican leaders in the Senate to negotiate a compromise.

While the proceedings are to begin today, however, the exact definition of "begin" could be subject to revision. The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, confirmed that the trial would open formally today and proceed next week, even if no time-scale was agreed beforehand. "The process will begin tomorrow," he told reporters yesterday, "and it will include activities on Monday. Exactly what those activities will be, we'll have to still determine."

One of the strongest advocates of calling witnesses has been Henry Hyde, chairman of the House judiciary committee, which formulated the articles of impeachment. Mr Hyde will lead the "prosecution" case at the Senate trial and will open the proceedings by reading the two articles passed by the House last month. These accuse Mr Clinton of multiple counts of perjury and obstruction of justice in trying to conceal the nature of his relationship with Ms Lewinsky.

Mr Daschle, for the Democrats, is against opening a trial without securing undertakings on its form and duration. This means that the proceedings

Mr Lott was speaking after an early morning meeting with his Democratic counterpart, Tom Daschle, which had apparently failed to produce an agreement on the duration of the trial or whether witnesses would be called.

A strong body of opinion among Republican Senators insists that a trial is not a trial unless witnesses are called and questioned, so that the Senate, which constitutes the jury in an impeachment trial, can make up its own mind about the merits of the case.

Democrats — and, it is believed, the White House — had by yesterday almost abandoned hopes of substituting a censure vote for a trial. But they were still arguing for abbreviated proceedings that would rest on the report and evidence collected by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, and the arguments in the House of Representatives.

In the past two weeks, Mr. Clinton has stuck rigidly to what he calls "the nation's business" announcing generous spending proposals that could find their way into this year's budget and capping the optimism yesterday with his announcement of a projected \$76bn domestic budget surplus for 1999.

As the 106th Congress opened yesterday, the historic

The calling of witnesses, who could include Monica Lewinsky and her treacherous confidante, Linda Tripp, has been strongly opposed not only by the White House and by Democrats sympathetic to Mr Clinton, but also by sections of the Republican party.

Some politicians, especially those representing conservative constituencies, fear that the

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

presentation of graphic evidence in public could rebound against the Republicans at the next elections.

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Mr Daschle, for the Democrats, is against opening a trial without securing undertakings on its form and duration. This means that the proceedings could be stalled before they start. This view is also believed to be shared by the White House, which has kept a low profile on the impeachment issue in recent days, apparently so as not to antagonise the Senate by seeming to influence its deliberations.

The White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart, said only: "There's obviously some frustration that we don't know what the procedures will be," adding that it was "a concern of the American people that this be done expeditiously".

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As the 106th Congress opened yesterday, the historic task before it was almost lost in the welter of matter-of-fact procedures. In the House of Representatives the roll call was followed by a formal vote for the new Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, whose nomination was uncontested by his own party and whose election was a foregone conclusion. Across the Capitol Rotunda, the Senators took their oaths.

SITTING IN JUDGMENT: THE SENATE DELIVERS ITS VERDICT ON THE PRESIDENT

PROSECUTION: HENRY HYDE

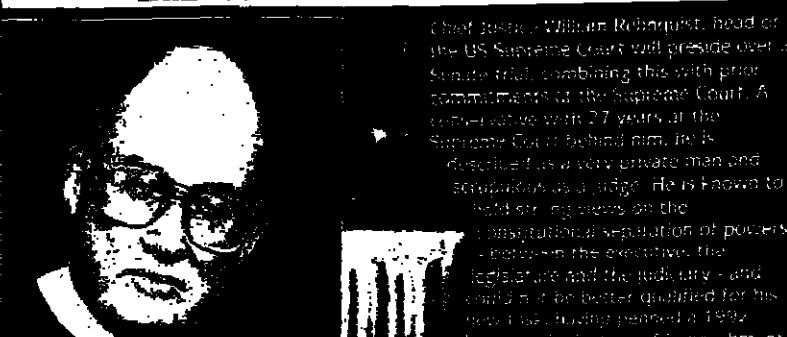


REPUBLICANS: TRENT LOTT



Republican majority leader in the Senate, and senator from Mississippi, with ties to the Bell, was right. His attempts to broker a deal with the Democrats - for pardoned proceedings without witnesses to save the country the agony of a protracted trial - jeopardized the right of his own party which wants a full trial. He now has to try once again to unite his fractured party in the white as preparations for a trial proceed.

CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM REHNQUIST



DEFENCE: CHARLES RUFF



Chief White House counsel, a shrewd and eloquent man who is crippled from a childhood disease, uses a wheelchair. He summed up the President's defense before the House Judiciary committee and gave ground in an attempt to strengthen Clinton's position. Admitted that the President's actions and hair-splitting under oath might look to "reasonable people" like perjury, but insisted the accusations would not stand up in a court of law and were certainly not impeachable.

DEMOCRATS: TOM DASCHLE



Senator for South Dakota and leader of the Democratic minority in the Senate, who has successfully marshalled Democrats behind calls for censure of a short trial, who so far failed to reach agreement with the Republicans. Daschle was among the hardest Democrats in his condemnation of Clinton's conduct in the Lewinsky affair but never joined those who were arguing for impeachment.

WHEN THE Senate convenes, as it is expected to today, to open the trial of President William Jefferson Clinton, its constitutional status and task will be clear. As set out in the US Constitution, the Senate has the "sole power to try all impeachments" - that includes the recall of judges and other elected officials, up to the President.

Senators fulfil the role of jurors. They are sworn in, and must remain silent for the duration. If witnesses are

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

called, Senators may submit written questions. When the subject of impeachment is the President, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in this case 72-year-old William Rehnquist, presides.

The Constitution says that "no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present" - which would be 67

WHEN THE Senate convenes, as it is expected to today, to open **BY MARY DEJEVSKY**
in Washington

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of the 100 Senators – and stipulates that judgment “shall not extend further than to removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honour, trust or profit under the United States”.

This appears to preclude the levy of a fine or imposition of a formal reprimand, as some have proposed, but there is no mention of whether a fine or reprimand (censure) could be applied in connection with the conviction. "The party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law." This would leave open the possibility that Mr Clinton could be prosecuted.

for perjury or obstruction of justice - the two charges forwarded to the Senate by the House of Representatives - once he leaves office.

That provision supports the view that there may be conduct that is impeachable but not criminal and vice versa, but there may also be conduct that is both. One suggested compromise was for Mr Clinton to accept a censure and be allowed to serve out his term, on condition that he agreed to

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Israelis seize cars at British consulate

AN ISRAELI tax blitz on Arab staff of the British consulate-general in east Jerusalem yesterday has opened a hornets' nest of questions about the status of the holy city, which both Israel and the Palestinians claim as their capital.

Tax inspectors impounded the private cars of four locally hired officials and demanded back-payment of hundreds of thousands of pounds in income tax. They told them the vehicles would be returned only if they paid off the alleged arrears, and threatened to raid their homes and seize their belongings.

Under a 20-year-old informal

By ERIC SILVER
in Jerusalem

described how she was ambushed at an army checkpoint on her way to the office on Tuesday. She was born in Amman and holds a Jordanian passport.

"Between six and eight armed policemen surrounded my car and ordered me to get out and hand over the licence and the keys," she said. "After they took my car, I sat for four hours with the tax people and my accountant, but it didn't help... They presented me with a bill for 1,796,488 shekels (about £260,000) they said I owed them for 1987 to 1993... I said I had never earned anything like it. They said I'd get the car back if I paid 1 million shekels. If not, they would sell it. Then they would take my furniture and my possessions."

Yesterday morning, the tax squad seized the cars of three more Arab staff parked outside the consulate. When the acting consul-general, Charles Winton-Ingram, phoned the tax office, he was told Israel was within its rights. "We are operating in a muddy area," he said, admitting that the immunity agreement had never been put in writing. "This is at the centre of the dispute over the status of east Jerusalem, which we and most other foreign governments maintain is occupied territory."

After a long day of diplomatic activity, the tax commissioner, Yoni Kaplan, suspended the blitz pending an opinion from Foreign Ministry lawyers on the consulate workers, expected within a week. Until then, a tax spokeswoman declared, Ms Zakak and her colleagues can have their cars back.



Juliette Zakak: Caught in ambush driving to work

agreement, Israel did not tax the 19 consular employees. They are not Israeli citizens, but they live in part of Jerusalem which Israel annexed after the 1967 war. Their Israeli identity cards differentiate them from West Bank Palestinians and allow them to move more freely.

Until 1992, British tax was deducted at source, but since then they have paid no income tax in either country. Two years ago, the Israeli tax authorities began sending demands.

Juliette Zakak, 41, an assistant management officer,



Iraqi soldiers passing the monument to the Unknown Soldier in Army Day ceremonies in Baghdad yesterday AP

Iran admits killing writers

IRAN'S INTELLIGENCE Ministry has admitted that some of its renegade colleagues carried out the high-profile kidnapping and killings of several writers in early December. The rogue agents also ordered the stabbing to death of the country's secular opposition leader, Dariush Foruhar, and his wife, Parvaneh, on 22 November.

Iran's President, Mohammad Khatami, yesterday issued a message congratulating the ministry for its "honest" investigation of the murders.

The revelation is likely to help President Khatami's beleaguered reform programme which has encountered strong opposition from religious conservatives. He had demanded that the public be informed of developments in the case, no matter who was implicated, saying: "Our main asset is in the trust of our people."

Since his election in May 1997, President Khatami has made it his priority to establish the rule of law and control hardliners. However, there has been

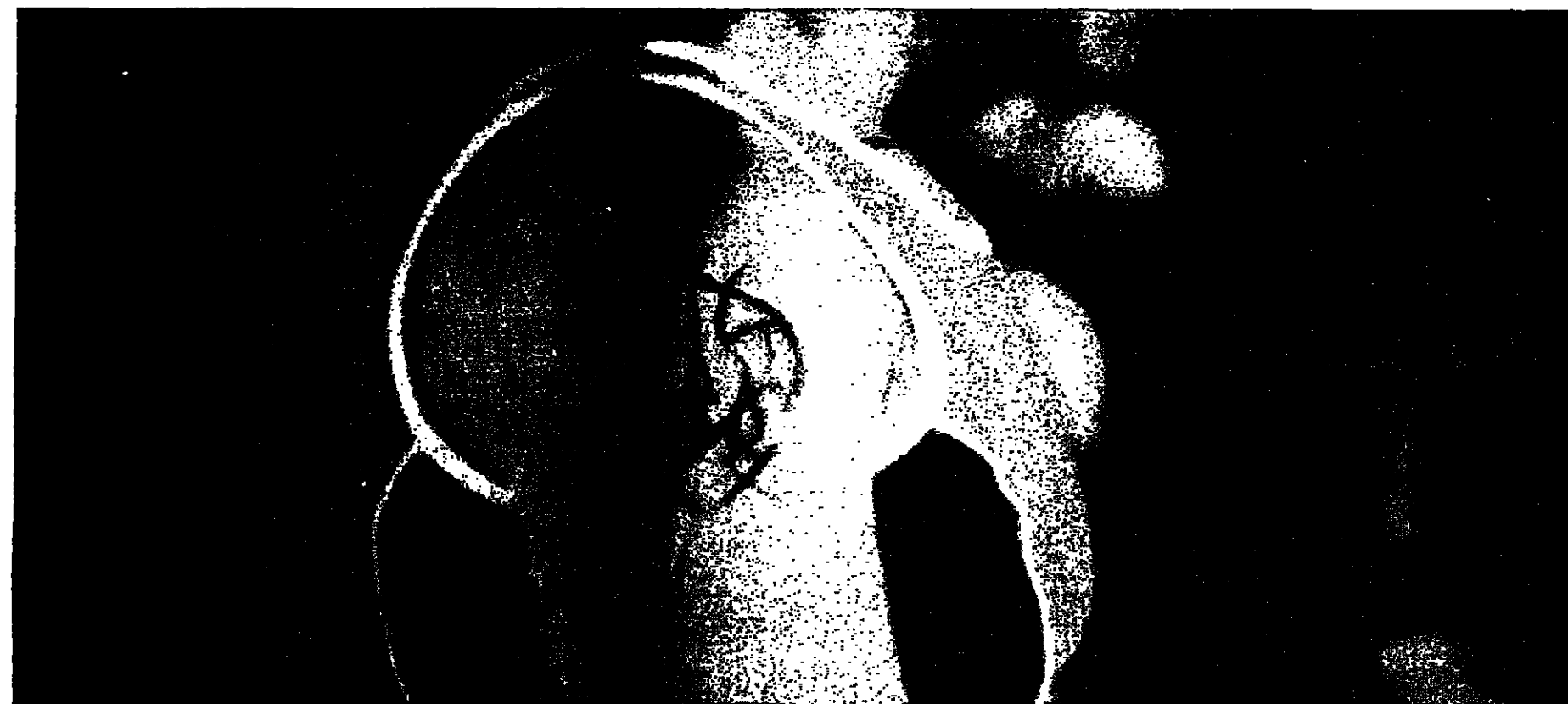
By BORZU ARANI
in Tehran

worsening political violence from die-hard Islamists, who fear for the fundamental principles of the 1979 Islamic revolution. Nothing has yet been said about the motives behind the murders of the dissidents, but it appears that the crimes were prompted by concern for the future of the revolution.

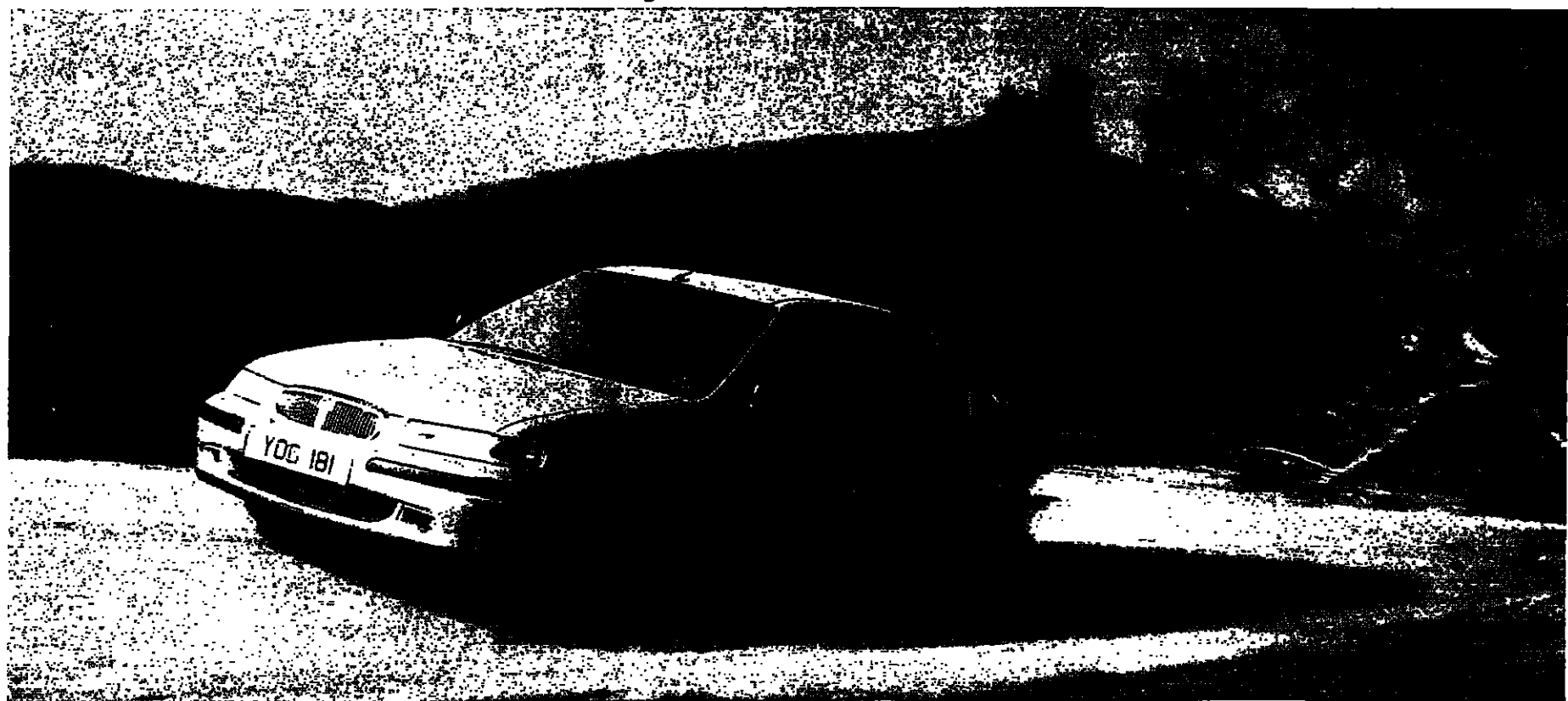
The affair has provoked calls for the resignation of the head of intelligence, Ghorban-Ali Dorrie-Najafabadi, who Mr Khatami is believed to have appointed to clean up the image of the ministry after the former head of the secret services was implicated in the 1992 assassination of Kurdish dissidents in Berlin.

Iran's Interior Ministry said that an assassination attempt on Tuesday on Ali Razini, the head of the Tehran judiciary, was carried out by two people on a motorbike. Mr Razini was reported to be wounded by explosives fastened to his car.

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Yemen 'stalls' Yard kidnap investigation

By ERIC WATKINS

YEMENI AUTHORITIES appear to be involved in a cover-up over the deaths of the four Western tourists kidnapped in Yemen. Scotland Yard detectives have been denied permission to interview the kidnappers' alleged leader, Zain al-Abdeen Abu Bakr al-Mehdar, who is also known as "Abu Hassan".

Last night officials in London described the Yemeni order to the two detectives to leave the southern Yemeni city of Aden as a bureaucratic "glitch" that had been countermanded by Yemen's Interior Minister. Hopefully, they would now be able "to go where they want and interview who they want".

Mystery still surrounds the assault by Yemeni forces on the kidnappers, in which three Britons and an Australian were killed. Despite claims by the Yemeni government that the kidnappers were unwilling to negotiate, Abu Hassan and his Islamic Jihad followers are well known to the government, which had been negotiating with them as recently as 40 days before the kidnapping.

They also have ties with the exiled Saudi dissident and suspected terrorist organiser, Osama bin Laden.

Abu Hassan is reported to have met with senior Yemeni military authorities in the capital, Sanaa, last November to secure funding promised by the government for Islamic Jihad's support in Yemen's 1994 civil war. But his request was refused, and in retaliation the group sought to increase pressure on the government.

Hence the kidnap of the 16 Western hostages on 29 December of whom four were killed in a rescue attempt.

A key figure in the story is Sheikh Tariq al-Fadhli, exiled after the Marxists took over South Yemen in the late Sixties and later an Arab volunteer in Afghanistan's war against the Soviet Union. He is a personal friend of Mr bin Laden.

Mr Fadhli is a Sheikh of the Maragish tribe who inhabit the

mountains of south Yemen where the recent kidnappings took place.

After the Afghan war, Mr Fadhli returned to Yemen, seeking revenge on the socialist party which had forced his family into exile. With financial support from Yemeni merchants in Saudi Arabia, Mr Fadhli built up a small tribal army. When Yemen's civil war broke out in May 1994, Mr Fadhli openly supported the northern forces, becoming a commander of the second brigade, made up of ex-Afghan



Osama bin Laden, who has ties with the kidnappers

mujahedin and tribesmen.

After the war ended, the victorious Yemeni president Lt-Gen Ali Abdullah Saleh rewarded Mr Fadhli by renewing his hereditary title of Sultan, restoring his family's extensive landholdings, and appointing him to the upper house of parliament, the consultative council. But if Mr Fadhli joined the establishment, his followers - including Abu Hassan - did not.

Today, Abu Hassan may well hold the answers to the central questions about the kidnap.

He also knows a lot about official Yemeni involvement in the affairs of Islamic Jihad and for that reason it is small wonder the authorities seem unwilling to let him spend any time with the men from Scotland Yard - and would far prefer to see him swiftly executed.

Deso said that, while the \$15 billion figure was doubtful, the final investment package would easily exceed the South African government's minimum requirement, which was for direct investment at least equal to the cost of weapons supplied.


part crime and reduce soaring unemployment. He will have to end the simmering civil conflict with Zulu nationalists and find money to improve health, education and other public services. With the Mandela miracle drawing to a close, the really hard work will fall to Mr. Mbeki.

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- ☐ Cushion to hug at tense moments (ER).



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Finland flirts with the West under a Tsar's nose

FRONTLINE
HELSINKI

YOU HAVE to hand it to the Finns. They have spent much of the last two centuries trying to secure, and then preserve, their independence from Russia. They fought a war against the Soviet Union and lost chunks of territory. Yet it is Tsar Alexander II, not a great Finnish national hero, whose statue adorns Senate Square, the most elegant site in old Helsinki. And even now, when the Cold War is over and no one owes Russia any favours, they're going to leave him there. Which helps explain the debate raging in Finland about whether to join Nato.

Let it be said that Alexander, as a colonial master, was pretty decent. He permitted the Finns their own currency and promoted the use of their language. Even so, times have changed. "Finlandisation" - that dirty word of the Cold War denoting a status somewhere between Soviet satellite and fully independent state - is a distant memory, and Finland is a member of the European Union.

Leave Senate Square and the city's old quarter, with its neo-classical facades and pastel colours so reminiscent of Russia that they were used as sets for Cold War spy films, and you could be in downtown Europe. The feel is of Hamburg, Oslo or Berlin. Even Stock-

mann's department store has lost its thrill. Once, for generations of Moscow-based diplomats and correspondents, the Helsinki store was the promised land, a source of Western luxuries an overnight train trip away. Now it's just a Nordic Selfridges.

In short, Finland has become normal - a founder member of the euro, with growth of 5 per cent last year and a forecast 3 per cent for 1999. Inflation is minimal, while the economy is no longer in thrall to what happens in Russia. "We have come of age," the Prime Minister, Paavo Lipponen, says. "With membership of the EU, Finland has reached its goal in post-war policy."

And yet the Bear - even today's enfeebled, limping beast - still casts its shadow. The national border which captures the Finnish imagination is still the 800-mile one to the east, the only direct frontier of an EU state with Russia. Had geography been otherwise, Finland would long have been a member of Nato. Instead, Helsinki is once again doing a nifty diplomatic double act.

Just as during "Finlandisation", when it beamed benign neutrality in the direction of the Russians but steadily

strengthened its integration into the Western economy and institutions, Finland is now edging closer to the alliance without saying so. Mr Lipponen could not be more guarded: "We're relatively satisfied with the current situation, and not considering Nato membership. Technically we're non-aligned, but non-alignment actually implies the option of joining."

In practical terms, Finland is inexorably strengthening ties with the alliance. Its weapons programmes, most notably a recent purchase of 64 F-18 fighters in preference to Swedish Saab Gripens, are mainstream Nato; this year it allocated \$1bn for a Finno-Swedish rapid reaction force. Helsinki is also involved in Partnership for Peace, often seen as an antechamber before full Nato membership.

"The parties are engaged, but a wedding day has not yet been set," the defence minister, Anneli Taival, has said. The *Helsingin Sanomat* columnist, Risto Uimonen, likens the process to an electric plug inching towards a socket: "Suddenly, almost without noticing, we're plugged in."

The reason to plug in, of course, would not be security (for even a hostile Russia will not be a realistic threat for



A statue of the old colonial master, Alexander II, adorns Senate Square, but leave old Helsinki and the atmosphere is decidedly European

decades) but the changing realities of European defence. Nato's mandate is, if anything, broadening in the aftermath of the Cold War, and it may be expanded further at the April summit in Washington marking its 50th anniversary, which Finland will be attending.

But there is one problem:

the Baltic states. The burning desire of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia to join Nato is well known, and Finland feels responsibility for them, especially for Estonia - linguistically, culturally and geographically so close, and where Finnish companies have invested heavily. Alas, as

Helsinki is aware, the three are neither ready to become Nato members, nor acceptable as such to Russia.

So what price the next Nato enlargement taking in inconvenient suitors like the Baltic states, Romania or countries from the former Yugoslavia, but those three pillars of pro-

perous neutrality, Finland, Sweden and Austria? That is what some in Helsinki expect. But maybe there's another answer. A couple of years ago, the former foreign secretary Douglas Hurd proposed a new Baltic security zone comprising Finland, Sweden and the Baltic states, and underpinned

by guarantees from Nato and Russia, to bring Europe's north-eastern corner under the alliance's umbrella without upsetting Moscow. Little has since been heard of the idea. But Alexander II himself, if not Yevgeny Primakov, would probably approve.

RUPERT CORNWELL

Rebels in battle for control of Freetown

A DESPERATE battle for the capital of Sierra Leone was raging last night as rebel troops fought their way to within a mile of the centre of Freetown, capturing a main government office building and burning down the city's police station. It was unclear last night who controlled the city, though rebels could be seen moving through the all-but-empty streets, according to witnesses contacted by telephone.

Troops from the Nigerian-led Ecomog peace-keeping force yesterday launched counter-attacks backed by fighter jets.

The rebels' military commander, Sam Bockarie, said his men would agree to a ceasefire if the government released Friday Sankoh, the rebel leader sentenced to death.

Speaking by satellite phone from his hideout, he said: "If Sankoh is released and handed over to us we are ready to cease fire." He claimed President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah - the leader reinstated last year with the help of British mercenaries - had fled Freetown.

There was no independent corroboration of his claim, though there were reports that the city's main prison had been broken into and renegade soldiers freed.

One witness said rebels had also burnt down a police station and the State House, the symbolic seat of power. It was unclear last night how close the rebels were to Hastings airport, Freetown's main transport link with the outside world.

Earlier this week, Ecomog troops fought off a rebel offensive at the airport, which is close to a peace-keeping base. The government last night said that while the rebels had entered parts of the capital its forces were still in control.

Speaking on BBC radio, the Information Minister, Julius Spencer, said a curfew had been imposed and that anyone found on the streets after dark would be shot. "The situation is

very serious but it is going to be dealt with," Mr Spencer said. "Apparently this is happening [the invasion of the city] and the rest of the world is standing by and watching."

Britain, Sierra Leone's former colonial ruler, has committed firm of financial and logistical support for Ecomog, the coalition of West African states fighting in support of President Kabbah.

Last night, a Foreign Office spokesman insisted: "Our involvement will be to provide equipment and logistical support as requested by Ecomog. We are not sending troops or advisers." The Ministry of Defence also said there were no personnel involved in the deal.

President Kabbah was restored to power last year after being ousted by rebels led by Major Johnny Paul Koroma in May 1997.

Efforts to reinstate the President were supported by Sandline, the British mercenaries whose shipment of arms and men breached international sanctions and triggered a crisis at the Foreign Office.

At talks in the Ivory Coast last month, representatives of Sierra Leone, Nigeria, the United States, Britain and Ecomog accused neighbouring Liberia of aiding the rebels. The Liberian President, Charles Taylor, received guerrilla training in Libya with Friday Sankoh, who was sentenced to death in Sierra Leone for treason last October after leading attacks on the government.

Last week, President Taylor admitted that Liberians were fighting in Sierra Leone but denied they had any link with his government.

The presence of the rebels within Freetown represents a marked change in their fortunes after they seemed to have been beaten back by government forces in recent months.

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BUSINESS

FTSE shrugs off fears on economy to roar past 6,000

BRIEFING

EDS creates 1,000 Sheffield jobs



UP TO 1,000 jobs are to be created in Sheffield by the US information technology group EDS. The company is setting up a new services delivery centre at the city's Hallamshire Business Park, initially creating 300 IT jobs. There are plans to recruit a further 700 employees in the longer term.

A third of the workforce will be trainees, either apprentices, graduates or people looking for a career change. David Blunkett (pictured), the Secretary of State for Education and Science and a local MP welcomed the investment and EDS's commitment to take on so many trainees.

GUS granted takeover appeal

GREAT UNIVERSAL STORES has been granted an appeal by the Takeover Panel regarding its complaint over claims made by the former board of Argos during last year's hostile takeover bid.

The panel executive has already considered GUS's claims and ruled there is no case to answer. This still stands. However, GUS has been granted the right to appeal to the full panel, which will decide whether the executive's findings should stand or the case be heard again. The hearing is expected in the next few weeks.

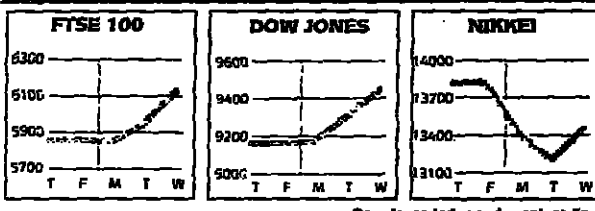
Sunderland's car-making record

NISSAN's Sunderland car plant, the most productive in Europe, built a record number of vehicles last year. A total of 238,838 Micras and Primers was produced by the 4,200-strong workforce - a 6 per cent increase on 1996 output.

BA sees fall in premium traffic

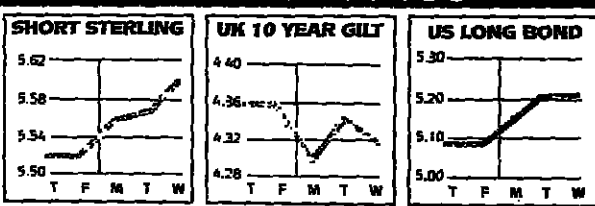
BRITISH AIRWAYS yesterday warned there would be no upturn in demand for first class travel this year, as it announced that December's premium traffic fell by 3.6 per cent. The fall was compensated for by a 12.9 per cent rise in economy class traffic for overall growth of 10.5 per cent. BA shares rose 11.5p to 411.5p.

STOCK MARKETS



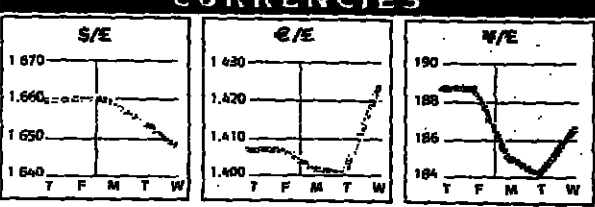
Index	Close	Change	%	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6148.80	190.60	3.20	6183.70	4599.20	2.62
FTSE 250	4244.40	72.20	1.52	5970.90	4247.60	3.42
FTSE 350	2886.60	82.70	2.95	2969.10	2210.40	2.74
FTSE All Share	2781.31	77.22	2.86	2886.52	2143.53	2.79
FTSE SmallCap	2110.00	20.90	0.97	2793.80	1834.40	3.86
FTSE Earnings	1166.10	9.00	0.78	1517.10	1066.30	4.32
FTSE AIM	804.70	1.20	0.15	1146.90	761.90	1.25
FTSE Europe 100	2924.12	65.58	2.29	3079.27	2018.15	87.11
FTSE Europe 300	1261.32	30.12	2.45	1332.07	880.63	0.99
Dow Jones	9464.39	152.17	1.63	9580.20	7400.30	1.62
Nikkei	13468.46	235.72	1.78	17352.95	12787.90	1.08
Hang Seng	10233.80	342.74	3.47	11926.16	6544.79	3.44
Dax	5443.62	189.71	3.61	6217.83	3833.71	1.58
S&P 500	1265.51	20.51	1.65	1248.81	912.83	1.25
Hendel	2308.68	27.31	1.19	2317.77	1357.09	0.30
Izotta 300	5804.00	144.40	2.17	7837.70	5290.90	1.60
Brazil Bovespa	2253.10	145.22	6.90	2339.14	1425.69	6.76
Belgium Bel20	3661.92	2.22	0.06	3695.96	2357.78	1.77
Amsterdam Eex	583.66	17.15	3.03	600.65	365.58	1.68
France CAC 40	4294.82	94.04	2.24	4404.94	2809.73	1.88
Milan MIB30	37807.00	390.00	1.04	39170.00	24175.00	1.07
Madrid Iboex 35	10690.70	202.90	1.94	10989.80	6869.90	1.68
Irish Overall	5362.35	201.09	3.88	5581.70	3733.57	1.25
S Korea Comp	612.38	13.81	2.31	612.38	277.37	0.96
Australia ASX	37.80	1.34	3.59	39.70	23.60	3.12

INTEREST RATES



Index	2 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr	15 yr	30 yr
UK	6.12	5.99	5.59	5.03	4.32	4.29
US	5.06	5.06	5.09	5.02	4.79	5.22
Japan	0.55	0.24	0.57	0.17	2.03	0.18
Germany	3.22	0.39	3.20	0.73	3.78	1.43

CURRENCIES



Index	Close	Change	%	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
Dollar	1.6498	-0.76c	-0.05	1.6202	1.5172	0.6172
Euro	1.6422	+2.31c	+0.14	1.6564	1.5600	2.90c
Yen	186.87	+2.83	+1.53	191.33	174.05	124.12
£ index	99.20	+0.50	+0.50	104.90	93.40	110.60

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Change	%	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
Brent Oil (\$)	10.49	0.34	3.33	11.02	9.40	Mar
Gold (\$)	287.65	0.80	0.28	290.85	278.61	Jan
Silver (\$)	5.15	0.24	4.82	5.40	4.62	7.25

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.5647	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.67
Austria (schillings)	18.65	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0089
Belgium (francs)	55.13	New Zealand (\$)	2.9576
Canada (\$)	2.4337	Norway (krone)	11.96
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7905	Portugal (escudos)	271.87
Denmark (krone)	10.24	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0186
Finland (markka)	8.1475	Singapore (\$)	2.6472
France (francs)	8.9664	Spain (pesetas)	227.19
Germany (marks)	2.6839	South Africa (rand)	9.0823
Greece (drachmas)	443.17	Sweden (krone)	12.90
Hong Kong (\$)	12.41	Switzerland (francs)	2.2161
Ireland (pounds)	1.0722	Thailand (bahts)	55.26
India (rupees)	63.12	Turkey (liras)	502.574
Israel (shekels)	6.3895	USA (\$)	1.6135
Italy (lira)	2658		
Japan (yen)	182.47		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0189		
Malta (lira)	0.6024		

SHARE PRICES leapt in London

yesterday as merger mania and hopes that the Bank of England will cut interest rates again outweighed further economic gloom.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is expected to reduce the cost of borrowing either today, after its monthly meeting, or next month. This would be the fourth cut in UK interest rates since October.

A third day of euphoria on some continental exchanges following the successful launch of the euro boosted London. So did the fact that Wall Street reached a new high in early morning trading in New York. A prediction of a stock market crash of 20 to 30 per cent and subsequent recession, made by Barton Biggs, the prominent investment guru at

BY DIANE COYLE

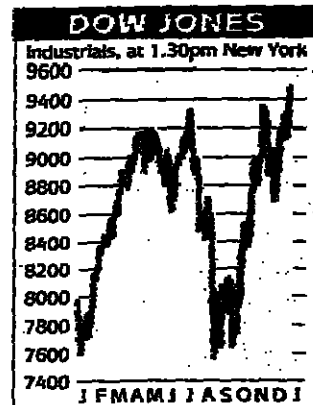
Economics Editor

Morgan Stanley, did nothing to dampen the fizz.

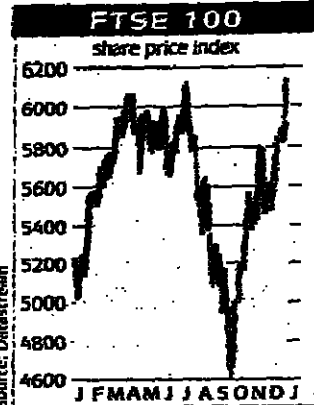
The FTSE 100 index ended nearly 191 points, or 3.2 per cent, higher at 6,148.8, took it back through the 6,000 level and within 30 points of its July all-time high of 6,179.

In the rest of Europe, Frankfurt saw the biggest gain, the DAX index climbing 3 per cent, and the CAC 40 index in Paris rose 2 per cent. Several markets were closed for a holiday.

The Dow Jones soon passed its previous peak of 9,474.27, and had gained more than 151 points to stand at 9,462.33 by midday. In the US the surge in share prices was again linked to investors pouring money into computer and technology-



Industrials, at 1.30pm New York



share price index

related shares, which have been the main beneficiaries of the traditional January inflow of funds to the market.

But some voices continue to warn that the share price bubble must burst. Andrew Smithers of Smithers & Co

were among the big price gainers. So was Amazon.com, the Internet bookstore: its shares soared 12 per cent in early trade after it said fourth-quarter sales quadrupled to almost \$250m (£150m), with a million new customers signing up.

The battle between Vodafone and Bell Atlantic for AirTouch Communications sparked hopes of other telecoms takeovers. The car industry is another where the prospect of merger activity has boosted investor enthusiasm. Shares in DaimlerChrysler, VW, BMW, Renault and Peugeot rose on the grounds that overcapacity and economies of scale in the single European market make a fall in the number of car makers inevitable.

London shrugged off the latest gloomy report on the econ-

omy. The survey of the services sector by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply showed a decline in business for the second successive month. The index also showed a fall in employment in December for the first time since the survey was launched two years ago.

The only sector to show any growth in new business was computing and information technology. Overall, one in four of companies surveyed said their workload had fallen in December. Although the mood remained upbeat, with optimism improving for the third month running, the survey was weaker than analysts had expected.

Richard Iley at ABN Amro said: "This will keep up the pressure on the MPC to ignore the temptation to wait and see this month."

Percy accepts reprimand on Young affair

KEITH PERCY, the former head of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, warned yesterday

that chief executives of City firms will have to appoint outside lawyers to second guess their compliance departments after accepting an official reprimand for his failure to prevent serious irregularities in the management of two of the firm's retail funds.

The two funds - the Morgan Grenfell European Growth and Capital Growth unit trusts - had to be bailed out to the tune of £400m by MGAM's parent, Deutsche Bank, in 1996.

Peter Young, who managed the funds, faces criminal charges, while five other senior MGAM managers have been suspended for periods of 16 months to three years.

As part of his settlement with Imro, the fund management watchdog, Mr Percy will pay £84,200 to cover investigation costs and will contribute to the disciplinary costs. In return, Imro has agreed to restore his registration with immediate effect. He will join the board of Société Générale Asset Management alongside Nicola Horlick, his former MGAM colleague.

Mr Percy said yesterday he had agreed to settle in order to avoid delays and added costs associated with a full tribunal hearing. Although his case had been due to be heard next week, Mr Percy had been told that a final ruling was unlikely before

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

Financial Editor

March. "I have agreed to settle so I can return immediately to the fund management industry."

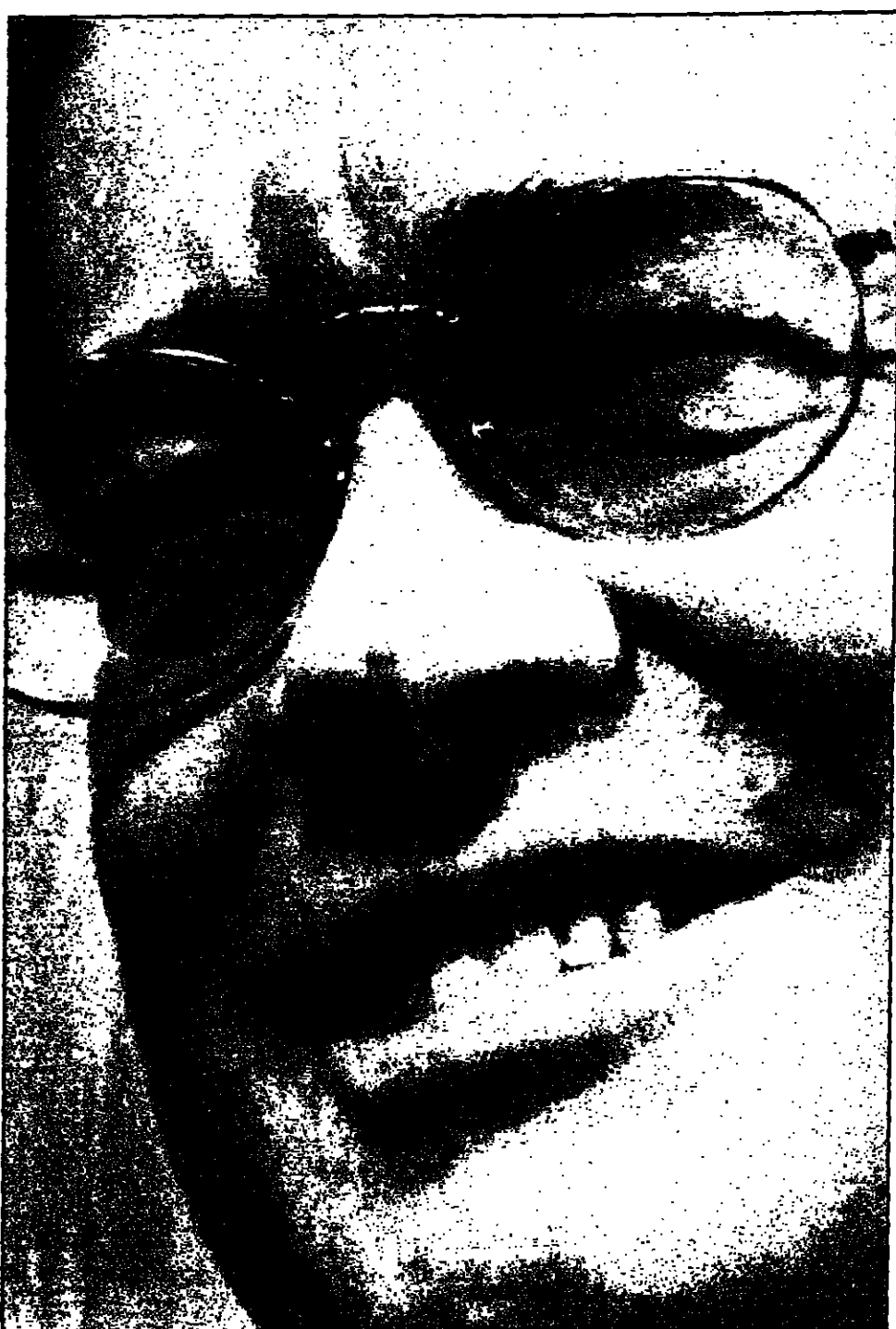
"If I had been offered a reprimand two years ago I would have been annoyed, but I probably would have accepted it. I was the chief executive with overall responsibility."

Mr Percy said that with hindsight he accepted he should have questioned the findings of the internal investigation more strongly and established a parallel investigation.

He added: "The implication of this judgment is that only by calling in external legal advisers will a CEO be protected from the risk of censure by the regulator, even though they may be in no better position to identify fraudulent behaviour."

Mr Percy, who was first alerted to problems in the two funds in April 1996, said that at the time he believed he was entitled to rely on the work of Morgan Grenfell's compliance department, at the time seen as a model for other City firms.

A spokeswoman for Imro said: "We have recognised that [Mr Percy] was one step removed and had not been an active fund manager for two years, and that was why he got a reprimand and not a suspension, but he should recognise that with those warnings bells it was like being run over by a fire engine."



Keith Percy accepted a reprimand over the Peter Young affair at MGAM, but said only external legal advisers could protect against the risk of censure Mark Chilvers

Allied Carpets ends merger talks

BY NIGEL COPE

Associate City Editor

ALLIED CARPETS, the struggling carpet retailer, attempted to draw a line under past problems yesterday when it said it had ended discussions with potential buyers after failing to attract any formal offers.

Allied had been approached by up to three potential bidders, including Carpetright, Alchemy Partners, the venture capital group, and Belg, the company run by entrepreneur Luke Johnson. But offers fell short of hopes, so Allied has taken down its "for sale" sign.

Although the group's shares fell 7p to 41p on the news, Allied Carpets' management put a positive gloss on events. Julian Lee, chairman, said the ending of the talks closed a damaging period of uncertainty.

He added that following the £12m sale of 29 Carpetright stores to Carpetright, the company could concentrate on improving the core business. A statement said this would focus on improving sales densities in existing stores, further cuts in overheads and cash generation.

Mr Lee said the climate in the carpet sector was still difficult. "The market is as tough as every retailer is saying. There isn't any consumer confidence. It is very much in the hands of the Monetary Policy Committee."

Allied Carpets will speed up its search for a new finance director following the resignation last year of David Pout, who quit after accounting problems. Allied has appointed a search agency to seek a replacement.

In December it emerged that Allied Carpets had received an expression of interest at 67p per share from Carpetright, but Carpetright dropped its interest having been told by the Office of Fair Trading that its bid was likely to run into regulatory problems due to the scale of the combined companies' market shares.

Carpets have been among the hardest hit of retail products as shoppers shy away from larger purchases. Shares in Carpetright have also fallen sharply, although it reported improved sales last month.

Hewitt snubs building societies' plea

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday

turned down a call for changes to building society laws which have failed to protect seven societies from hostile votes designed to force them to become banks.

Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said the Government was opposed to changing the Building Societies Act in spite of protests that it allows just 50 individual members to force a de-mutualisation vote at societies with millions of members. "What I think would be wrong would be to prevent

BY ANDREW VERITY

members from coming forward at all with a conversion proposal, because building societies belong to the members and it is part of the democratic ethos that they should be allowed a say," Ms Hewitt said.

The rebuff is a blow to heads of building societies, seven of which may be forced to hold votes on de-mutualisation proposals by April. The proposals were lodged last week by Michael Hardern, the eccentric "carpetbagger" in chief, and

Stephen Major, a plumber from Lisburn, Co Antrim.

On Radio 4's Today programme, Ms Hewitt said: "It is very irritating for building societies to have to go through this all the time but it is part of the process. One could say the same about takeover bids."

Building societies complain that the rules are disruptive to their business because a 2.5 million-strong society can be held to ransom by just 50 members, or 0.002 per cent of the vote. Shareholders at a listed company need 10 per cent of voting

shares to force a vote. Adrian Coles, director general of the Building Societies Association, said: "We will continue to point out that 50 individuals being in a position to manipulate a 2.5 million-strong society is too small a number."

Chief executives of the eight societies facing conversion proposals - Bradford & Bingley, Britannia, Yorkshire, Leeds & Holbeck, Skipton, Coventry, Chelsea and Portman - held an unprecedented meeting yesterday to thrash out legal methods of stopping carpetbaggers.

While Bradford & Bingley will go ahead with a vote in April, the other societies believe Mr Hardern's proposals may be flawed in law. They are seeking a legal opinion which may allow the proposals to be struck out.

Mr Hardern's resolutions call on the societies' boards "to take immediate steps to convert to plc status and distribute free shares to members". This may clash with a 1974 legal decision, *Hinkmott v. Woolwich*, which stops members using resolutions to interfere with the running of a society.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUE CHIPS enjoyed their second best gain with Footsie surging 190.6 points to 6,148.8, only 30.3 from the peak hit in July last year. Trading was often hectic, with turnover approaching £5 billion shares, the second most busy session the stock market has experienced. Supporting shares also enjoyed their best sessions for weeks. Institutional buying was behind the surge. Many fund managers, sidelined recently, decided it was time to chase equities. Derek Pain, page 19

NEW YORK

WALL STREET reached a new record, rising 160 points to 9,471 by midday, driven up by heavy demand for blue chips and optimism in European markets as well as prospects of further megamergers. Rising consumer confidence and record new home sales boosted sentiment. Merger candidate AirTouch gained a further \$4.375 to \$79.275 and Bell Atlantic rose \$1.32 to \$177.82. The Nasdaq also hit fresh highs, led up by Intel, Cisco Systems and Microsoft.

TOKYO

SHARE PRICES in Tokyo rose for the first time in 1999 after the yen's recent rise levelled out and bond prices also stabilised. The Nikkei ended the day 235.72 points or 1.78 per cent higher at 13,468.46. Motor stocks continued to climb. Honda gained 150 to 3,660 yen and Nissan 22 to 356 yen as speculation concerning takeovers continued, although both companies denied involvement. Bank stocks also recovered, but blue chips eased, reflecting selling by foreign investors.

HONG KONG

THE HANG SENG INDEX closed 342.74 higher at 10,233.80, a gain of 3.5 per cent, as hopes of a further cut in interest rates rose and shares rallied in Tokyo. Foreign investors were said to be buying interest-sensitive stocks, including banks and property groups. Telecoms and trading stocks also firmed but the overall mood remained cautious. At Nomura Kevin Chan expects more companies to freeze or cut salaries next month.

FRANKFURT

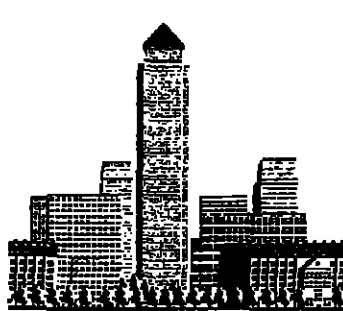
THE EXTRAORDINARY optimism generated by the success of the euro's launch continued to drive shares higher. The blue-chip Xetra DAX closed more than 3 per cent up at 5,442.90, its highest level since 21 August. Demand for telecoms and car stocks was strong. Deutsche Telecom shares gained 6 per cent and Mannesmann touched 134.79 euros before closing 1.9 per cent up at 118.5. DaimlerChrysler rose 6.6 per cent and BMW 5.9 per cent on merger hopes.

Why the hiccup could help cut rates

ARE INTEREST rates much too high? The TUC thinks so, calling for a 1 per cent cut from the Monetary Policy Committee today and another 1 per cent by the summer. Most of industry would go along with this. The economy is slowing rapidly, there are no inflationary dangers on the horizon, and the pound is still too high for comfort.

What's more, the euro-friendly policies of our Labour Government point towards much lower interest rates too. Euro interest rates are only half the level of UK rates and likely to be cut further soon because of ominous signs that the big continental economies are slowing again. Reducing the differential between UK and euro rates, along with the need to get the pound to a more comfortable level, is a key part of preparing the British economy for joining the single currency.

So it would seem to make sense to adopt a new inflation target based on the harmonised index of consumer prices (pleasingly known in the City as "the hiccup"). Not only would this symbolise Britain's honourable intentions towards the euro, it would also allow more room for interest-rate cuts without risking the inflation target.



OUTLOOK

As things stand, the policy framework wouldn't allow a rapid convergence of short-term interest rates with Euroland, even though economic conditions could scarcely be more conducive to it than they are now. The straightjacket of the Government's inflation target, as defined by the retail price index, makes any such leap impossible. However, if the target is redefined using the hiccup, then it becomes much easier.

The UK's "harmonised" inflation rate is only 1.4 per cent, well below the 2 per cent ceiling adopted by the European Central Bank as equivalent to price stability. A switch from a 2.5 per cent RPIX target to a 2 per

cent target for the harmonised index would obviously allow for a quite significant loosening of policy.

Politically, that is bound to be seen as something of a climbdown for the Chancellor, tantamount to admitting that he has allowed the newly independent Bank of England to be too tough on the economy to date. He's therefore going to think long and hard before going this route. On the other hand, Wim Duisenberg and his ECB colleagues can hardly be seen as the sort of people who play fast and loose with inflation. If the Government is going to do it at all, now's the time.

Imro/Keith Percy

KEITH PERCY used to be one of the stars of the investment management scene. Under his watch, Morgan Grenfell Asset Management became one of the largest and best-performing money managers in the City, attracting tens of billions of pounds in new funds. Then along came Peter Young and destroyed Mr Percy's career, as well as profoundly damaging his company.

Few people in the City feel anything but sympathy for what happened to Mr Percy. "There but for the grace of God go I," many said privately. Mr Percy had faith in Mr Young, and he trusted the procedures he had established to ensure compliance. He was mistaken on both counts. But neither Mr Percy's undoubted talents nor any sympathy we might feel for the blameless skipper absolve him from responsibility for what happened.

Mr Percy makes some good points in the statement he released after accepting Imro's official reprimand. Chief among these is that but for the fact that he is a relatively rich man, able to afford the legal costs of fighting the regulators, he would be facing much tougher disciplinary action - including a fine and prolonged ban. This is plainly unfair on those unable to fight their corner, as some of his more heavily punished colleagues were. As it is, he has had to bear some of Imro's disciplinary costs.

But Mr Percy surely protests too much about the oppressive powers of financial regulators and the blamelessness of his position. Curiously, many commentators have come to accept what he says, forgetting that the proper function of regulation is not to safeguard the

rights of practitioners but to protect the interests of investors.

Let's just remind ourselves of the facts of this case. The Peter Young affair cost MGAM's parent company, Deutsche Bank, more than £400m. Were it not for the largesse of the German parent, investors in Mr Young's trusts would have suffered catastrophic losses.

The most important part of a fund manager's job, it might reasonably be thought, is to ensure that his clients' money does not go walkabout. This Mr Percy obviously failed to do. Worse, he failed to show adequate cognisance of the warnings he received of Mr Young's untoward behaviour, preferring instead to delegate responsibility to his compliance department.

Mr Percy offers plenty of excuses for this and many of them are good ones. On the other hand, you do not allow the skipper whose ship goes down with all hands to sale again, do you, even if he was not directly responsible for falling adequately to batten down the hatches. Mr Percy has fought a good campaign and everyone wishes him well in his new job at SG Asset Management, but it is not in the best interests of the City to allow

negligence of this sort to be swept under the carpet.

LucasVarity

THERE ARE more ways than one to skin a cat. Having failed to get shareholder approval to relocate LucasVarity from Birmingham to Buffalo, New York, Victor Rice, its chief executive, seems intent on achieving his goal of a New York listing by other means.

The preliminary merger discussions that LucasVarity's chief executive has entered into with a variety of rival US car components groups, led by TRW, look designed to achieve the same end.

Who would bet against Mr Rice getting his way? As even a strong-minded chairman like Ed Wallis discovered, when Mr Rice puts his shoulder to the wheel, there is little option but to push with him, jump out of the way or risk being flattened.

The arguments advanced in favour of securing a US listing - that it would improve LucasVarity's stock market rating and give it easier access to capital - always looked a little tenuous. There is no shortage of US appetite for LucasVarity

stock right now and as the French car parts maker Valeo has shown, a New York listing is not a prerequisite for a top-notch rating.

Still, Mr Rice obviously feels more at home on the other side of the pond, and by hook or by crook, he seems determined to have his company based there. Unfortunately it is not clear that the merger plan has any more to commend it than the straight switch of domicile approach. Whereas the "merger" of Varity and Lucas in 1997 never pretended to be anything other than a US takeover of a once great but faded British engineering name, on this occasion the boot will be on the other foot.

Bar none, the suitors Mr Rice is talking to are bigger than he is, which means he risks negotiating from a position of weakness. There is talk that LucasVarity may stitch up a series of alliances with several partners. But if further cost-cutting in an increasingly competitive world is the real name of Mr Rice's game, then the cleanest deal is a straightforward takeover. The danger is that in his desperation to cut one and with it his move back to Buffalo, he will allow his shareholders to be disadvantaged.

News Analysis: In a fundamental shift in buying power, the bargain-hunting consumer now holds the whip hand

Shoppers put the squeeze on the high street

NEXT, the fashion retailer, appeared to buck the trend of high-street gloom yesterday when it issued an upbeat Christmas trading statement and said its end-of-season sale had been "satisfactory". News that its retail sales in the 21 weeks to 24 December were 13.5 per cent higher than last year from 11 per cent more selling space pushed the shares up 10 pence.

But most retail analysts still expect the overwhelming majority of major store groups to issue disappointing sales updates in the next few weeks. "We expect Next to be the exception," said Nick Bubb, retail analyst at SG Securities.

What is going on here? Is it really sufficient to blame shivering consumer confidence and rising fear of redundancy for the high street's woes? Or are there more fundamental, structural issues at work?

There is no doubt that Britain's retailers are struggling. Although Next's sales rise looks encouraging, it was achieved against weak figures last year followed by a profits

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

warning in March. And elsewhere in the sector yesterday the news was not so good. Allied Carpets ended discussions with potential bidders because offers were too low, while the British Retail Consortium's Shop Price Index for December showed that prices on a range of most commonly bought goods were 0.6 per cent lower than this time last year. It said the second consecutive month of falling prices represented the start of a deflationary trend.

The "feel-bad" factor is weighing against official figures showing that Britain is relatively well off compared to the start of the last recession. The savings ratio is higher, and weekly disposable income is still comfortably up year-on-year. Sales of certain items show that if the product or service is attractive, consumers will flock to it in droves.

Figures this week from the mobile phone operators showed soaring subscriptions over Christmas. Leading play-

ers such as Vodafone, Orange and One-2-Go added an astonishing 2.5 million new customers in the final three months of the year, many in the form of Christmas gifts. Other new technology products are also doing well, such as digital cameras and wide screen digital televisions.

But why is the rest of the high street in such a parlous state? As with most crises, a combination of factors is at work. Apart from the obvious - weak consumer confidence - these include: a shift in pricing psychology; a change in buying trends towards services rather than consumer goods; lack of inspiration and innovation on the high street; over-supply; and an increase in competition from other channels such as mail order and the Internet.

Take prices. After decades of shopping with an inflationary mindset, consumers and shopkeepers are having to live with a new concept - that prices will not necessarily go up, and that they might even come down. This has the effect of deferring some purchases, particularly



big ticket items such as furniture and carpets.

"No one wants to pay full price anymore," says Mr Bubb of SG Securities. "The media coverage of rip-offs, whether it is right or wrong, has got through to consumers. We have all become much more bargain conscious." Paul Edwards, managing director of the Henley Centre, the forecasting group, agrees. "People aren't stupid. If it is anything big, they buy it in January."

The shift has been underlined by the trend this Christmas to give vouchers as presents so that the spending

power goes further in the sales.

Mr Edwards adds that this shift in pricing psychology has moved pricing power from the retailer to the consumer, who now has the whip hand.

A more gradual but fundamental problem for the high street is the shift from consumer goods towards services. Although yesterday's purchasing managers' index showed a dip in activity in the services sector, the annual study of family expenditure undertaken by the Office for National Statistics shows an underlying trend towards higher spending on services.

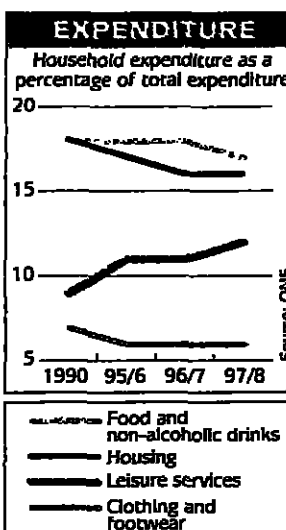
In 1991 leisure services accounted for 9 per cent of household expenditure. Last year that had risen to 12 per cent. In the same period the proportion spent on clothing and footwear fell from 7 per cent to 6 per cent, while the share of spending on food, alcohol and housing also fell. These figures move with glacial slowness, but there is no denying the trends.

A lack of inspiration on the high street is another problem. According to Nathan Cockrell, retail analyst with BT Alex Brown, Britain's retailers must do more to inject an element of theatre and glitz into

their stores. "Whenever I go to America I am struck by how many more exciting places to shop there are. They deliver service and an experience few match in this country."

"The problem is that when times get tough, companies tend to get more conservative which is going in the wrong direction. If you are going to tempt people to come to your shop rather than spend money in a restaurant or cinema, you have to provide something exciting," says Mr Cockrell.

Over-supply and an increase in competition are other difficulties. Britain is already con-



Next chief executive David Jones can be happy with the clothes retailer's Christmas, but few other major store groups are expecting a happy new year as consumer confidence ebbs and competition intensifies

considered "overshopped", but more retail developments come on stream, soon such as the massive Bluewater Park in Kent, which opens in March.

As if all this were not enough, traditional retailers face the prospect of more competition from mail order and the Internet. Arcadia, the former Burton multiples division, distributed 47 million mini-catalogues last year. And the new M&S home furnishings catalogue landed on doormats yesterday. As Mr Cockrell states: "Life for the bricks and mortar retailers is going to get tougher and tougher."

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TERMS & CONDITIONS: Prices shown are per room based on one night stay single or double occupancy fully inclusive of tax and service. Offer available in listed hotels between 14 December 1998 to 28 February 1999 (inclusive) - excluding 31 December. All reservations subject to availability and these promotional rates. Bookings to be made via Central Reservations prior to arrival at hotel. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or special promotion. 50% discount represents savings against peak rates. Posthouse hotels reserves the right to suspend this special offer at any time without prior notice. Any confirmed or guaranteed bookings cancelled after 2pm on day of arrival will be liable to a non-refundable charge of the first night's rates. All unconfirmed bookings will be released at 2pm on day of arrival. *Not part of the Posthouse brand

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Thursday 7 January 1999

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23.7	1666	5.8	243	Air Ports	2930	45	81	12382
25.1	1666	5.8	243	Airports	2712	52.9	19	1028
11.3	1872	15.4	140	Asphalt	155.3	2.5	18	111
19.0	1662	3.84	197	Auto Gas	358.5	2.0	1.5	700
1.18	1351	2.92	446	BBAs	701.5	25.5	25.5	700
56.2	1475	7.25	225	Be Airways	411.8	411.5	5.0	82358
24.4	1531	1.7	333	Be Prodigy Airways	633.3	3.6	5.6	2654
7.7	1517	1.1	66	Blackburn	71.5	0.3	5.6	6.5
67	1638	1.55	138	Cable	12.5	0.2	2	12.4
1.1	1638	2.33	193	Cartel de	183.3	5.0	3.4	4613
17.8	1412	2.68	150	Comcast	190.0	0.7	47	163
6.4	1728	0.4	44	Euromed	72.0	0.2	37	5534

101	101	458	458	ASD-Pol	100	100	01	100
20	20	459	459	Poler 1	100	100	01	100
106	106	1403	1403	ASD Ford-Pol	500	500	01	477
121	121	1344	616	510 G-Ahead	785	785	01	16
800	800	800	800	GOOGE Drive	785	785	01	00
201	201	2556	225	103 New Ave	1432	1432	01	05
300	300	3572	37	51 Jackson	512	512	05	20
139	139	3108	663	Age Memory Doctors	472	472	04	17
121	7181	112	878	New Externs	1144	1144	05	25
100	2292	91	91	NEW	1056	1056	05	00
301	2298	307	453	Ocean Dr	775	775	01	00
146	121	63	63	Omaha Wilson	250	250	03	63
1000	482	P & R			6725	6725	05	12

77	62	50	Power Duct	458.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
117	1769	239	Rightbank	249.0	-10.0	2.0	5.0	0.0
133	3574	529	274 Regular Hedges	85.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
137	4067	130	77 Salween (C)	58.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
138	4067	310	162 Service	18.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
139	2226	391	132 Shogun	226.0	0.0	1.0	24.0	198.0
142	1267	330	Thailand & P	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
143	1267	663	35 Performance	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
144	118	372	193 Transport Dm	29.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
145	219	132	122 Transport Dm	29.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
146	1078	225	1078 Use Camers	20.0	-10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
WATER				0.30%				
1177	1004	506	Angkor	82.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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AIM		0.1-0.5	
343	205 A to Grady H29509	-12.2	5.5 12.1
271	175 Access Plus P/L	175.2	2.0 16.3
95	36 Albemarle & Bond	9.9	0.5 9.3 15.8
134	94 Alcoa Aluminum Corp	95.5	1.4 2.3
330	255 Am Genl Corp	255.0	2.4 3.7
118	59 American	70.2	0.1
139	86 Amchem Int P/L	87.5	0.0
485	237 Am General	250.0	0.7 2.4 41.2
95	8 Atlantic Computers	0.6	0.0
111	6 Atlantic Union	0.0	0.0

98	2586	183	124	BATF Adv Comm	17:55	0.1	2.2	
		228	77	BDO Testimony	5:00	3.4		
4.8	1213	216	135	WGR	12:32	0.2		
	-4344	157	68	Journal of Science	1:00	0.7	26.3	
3.1	2180	106	106	C.A. Courts	12:50	0.2		
		37	37	Care Clinic	3:30	-4.9	6.6	
7.6	6961	362	175	Conte	31:15	0.3	-14.0	
4.6	6287	167	73	Conte Not Guilty Ver	9:15	1.0	-4.3	-14.0
5.5	1639	87	48	Chrysler Motive	9:45	0.2		
	-3941	74	67	Chrysler Vague	9:15	0.0	62.7	
6.1	11325	28	14	Chrysler	23:30	0.0		
9.5	2257	123	101	Greiner Holdings	10:35	0.0	2.2	

75	1310	118	Continuing P&L	202.5	2.0	23	76.5
53	1190	369	143 Computations on	712.7	2.0	11	71.7
		182	100 CMC Group	237.0	0.9	23.3	
14	1038	400	183 Deep-Sun Ltrc	125.5	0.0	77.7	
11	1019	195	195 Drabben (Sawyer)	225.0	0.6	2.6	11.1
3	1014	145	145 Druggists Health C	169.5	2.0	2.0	17.9
2		21	74 Eazyvat	2.0	0.0		
		330	120 Electronic Retaining	170.0	5.0		
		113	72 Epi-Sales	76.5	0.5	7.1	
14	1254	187	870 Epi-Sales	700.0	0.0	0.2	19.4
12	1237	534	115 Fibronet Group	401.5	24.0		
10	1239	414	287 Phoenix Pest	245.0	0.5		

43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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43	44	45	46	47	48	49																																																			

7764	33	2	Infantry Inf Regts	44.0	0.0	
7765	59	4	Heavy Weapons Regt	44.0	0.0	
7766	10	2	Infantry Gen Regt	42.5	0.5	
8450	190	38	Infantry Tech Regt	102.5	0.0	
8451	198	39	Infantry Tech Regt	617.5	0.0	17 16.3
11150	172	3	Infantry	40.0	4.0	
1150	339	14	S Solutions	275.5	0.0	
1500	416	27	Infantry	266.0	0.0	3.8 11.0
1604	320	18	Armored	246.5	0.0	
1650	420	13	Armored	141.5	2.0	1.8 15.4
194	428	37	Lamington	376.0	0.0	3.8 13.5
3382	5750	250	Lamington	4250.0	0.0	8.0 6.1
5203	16	6	Lam & Ex Pat	8.0	0.0	

1823	31	8 London Trees	45.0	0.0		3721
4714	286	Musical Wines	300.0	0.0	2.1	17.8
3275	17	Medlars	0.0	0.0		
	38	15 Memory Cap	20.0	-1.8		
	74	12.0	0.0	0.0		
	48	Multicultural City	50.0	0.0		
2570	115	110	0.0	0.0		
	150	150	1092.0	0.0		4031
	169	40 Micropharm Sps	22.5	1.0		
	195	Mooreway Grove	200.0	0.0	3.2	25.6
2087	1	1 MW Sports Car	0.0	0.0		
6047	41	1 MMT Group PLC	25.0	1.0		1526
	83	26 Nottingham Forest	23.5	0.0		
1273	375	160 NSE Retail Sps	170.0	0.0	0.5	24.6
769	21	8 Oxford Horological	10.2	-2.0		
4312	129					

342	211	163	Poly Master	10.5	0.0		
343	238	181	Poly Poly	18.0	0.0		3722
344	152	181	Poly Poly	142.5	0.0		
347	611	50	Polymetric Pharm	56.0	0.0		
348	117	7	Prattory Inc	3.0	0.0		
349	515	265	Ray	327.5	0.0	62	78
350	231	47	10 Probation	11.5	0.0		
351	2314	119	70 G Corp (The)	70.0	0.0	68	61
352	049	216	Raven Group	217.5 +12.5			
353	186	37	Repart Tech Cos	0.0	0.0	127.3	
354	1395	96	Reconstruc V Cars	97.5	0.0		
355	1952	100	RSB Group	12.5 +7.5	2.2	147	
356	330	204	Safety Systems	160.0	0.0	29	24.0
357	3520	48	Salt Corp				

2551	100	55 Sports&Outdoor	62.5	0.0	-	-
2552	600	100 Software	237.5	7.5	1.1	3724
1150	100	4 Cluster	12.0	0.0	-	-
5771	175	116 Style Holdings	12.0	0.0	-	-
2587	145	4 Foodchain Org	113.5	0.0	0.4	3745
535	390	3 TRANDER Networks	117.5	3.0	2.2	1415
5847	45	8 Victory Corp	8.8	0.0	-	-
2235	10	4 Western Holdings	54.0	3.5	0.4	12.7
7012	20	19 Westmont Energy	20.5	0.0	-	-
8288	205	55 World Telecom	56.5	0.0	-	-
5312	495	150 Zarga	495.0	10.0	-	-
1045						

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6478		
5692		
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3807	\$18.0	0.0
1401	\$40.5	-2.0
5271	\$95.5	22.0
7600	\$4.5	-8.0
6835	\$8.5	0.0

source: bloomberg
www.bloomberg.com/uk

PRICE DATA

reflects the official closing bid price. Sector movements
are 12 month declared gross dividend as a percentage
of the share price divided by last year's dividend per
share. Other details: Ex rights = Ex-dividend =
Gilt = Treasury Gilt.

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Footsie breaks into stampede

FOOTSIE SCORED its second-highest one-day gain in the second-busiest trading session on record. With institutional investors, domestic and foreign, chasing shares with what appeared to be a grim determination, the blue chip index burst through the 6,100 barrier, soaring 190.6 points to 6,148.8. It is now just 30.2 below the peak achieved in July last year.

The new year stampede was fuelled in part by New York's strength, with the Dow Jones Average hitting a high during London trading. Other world markets were in form, with the successful launch of the euro one of the factors behind their progress.

Turnover nudged 1.5 billion shares. It was swollen towards the close when, in what appeared to be a bought deal, 253.76 million Telewest Communications shares went through at 175.25p.

Suddenly, it seemed that institutions, sidelined last month by the festive season and the run-up to the euro, were awash with cash. If they were unable to buy into any of the currently fashionable Footsie areas, such as drugs and telecoms, they were content to alight on any blue chip so long as the asking price was not too outrageous.

Such was the clamour that even some of the long-neglected second-liners found themselves in demand. The mid cap index jumped 74.2 to 4,944.4 and the small cap 20.3 to 2,110. Mind you, the market's undercard remains a long way from the halcyon days when the second and third-liners were really in demand. The mid cap index hit a 5.966 record in June last year and small cap peaked at 2,792.7 in May.

Footsie, however, displayed no inhibitions. It has been growing steadily stronger since sinking below 5,000 in October. The progress has accelerated in recent weeks, and after a subdued start on Monday, the index has climbed more than 250 on the opening trading days of the year.

New year rallies are not unusual. But the rampant buying which has characterised the latest burst of excitement suggests that even more cash is sloshing around the system than many suspected.

The rush to indulge in share buy-backs in the past few years has reduced the pool of shares available and, of course, increased the wall of money.

There are indications that more Continental fund managers see London as an attractive home for their cash, and it is also suggested US fund managers, who parked cash in London ahead of the euro, have decided to invest at least part of their money in London rather than on the Continent.

Many market men, however, wonder whether some fund managers have lost their marbles. They point to some of the huge price movements and their herd instinct.

The computerised order book has increased share volatility. Perhaps it is responsible for some of the exaggerated movements but a 13.6 per cent gain, as Standard Chartered enjoyed, looks unrealistic when compared with the more modest movements which would occur not so many years ago.

Standard jumped 94p to 784p, with nearly 7 million shares traded. Bid talk was again in the air.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Suggestions of corporate activity, as well as hopes of lower interest rates today, were a major influence elsewhere. There are still expectations of more deals among defence, drugs and telecom shares.

The telecom activity was highlighted by the Telewest deal. It seems that Dresdner Kleinwort Benson picked up the shares from US group Cox Communications, which had around 12 per cent. DKB arranged to place the shares with institutions at 181p.

Colt Telecom, with talks of a bid swirling around, hit another peak up 87.5p to 1,124.5p, and BT moved through 1,000p to reach 1,011.5p. Vodafone shaded to 1,089p as arbitrageurs, invariably active in transatlantic bids, took positions and analysts pondered the probability that Vodafone will have to contend with competition to win control of AirTouch Communications.

Reuters, supported by Warburg Dillon Read, gained 53.5p to 730.5p, but Dixons, downgraded by DKB ahead of

HOUSE OF FRASER, the department store chain, looks vulnerable to a bid. There is talk it is having discussions with a possible predator. The shares firmed 2.5p to 57.5p in busy trading. They came to market at 180p in 1994 and have been as high as 228.5p. A trading statement is due shortly and there is speculation it could be accompanied by confirmation of the predator's interest.

next week's interim figures, missed the fun, falling 40.5p to 797.5p.

Still Next's encouraging trading statement produced some relief for retailers. The fashion chain rose 48.75p to 562.25p, and Marks & Spencer 11p to 419.5p.

LucasVarity's confirmation that it was in takeover talks gave the shares an 11.25p boost to 226.5p. Engineer BWI, the latest management buyout candidate, jumped 22p to 69.5p, and Avonside, a house builder, put on 10p to 50p as a potential bidder hovered.

Hopes of a higher offer from Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries lifted Marston Thompson & Evershed, the Pedigree brewer, 8p to 197.5p.

The collapse of talks at Allied Carparts cut the shares 7p to 41p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.47 billion
SEAQ TRADES: 83,372
GILTS INDEX: 118.15 -0.10

Investment: Conventional valuations are no guide in this high-risk sector Battered biotech shares are still the most highly rated

WHAT ARE the most expensive companies on the stock market? Ask that question to a handful of US investors and they will undoubtedly refer you to the Internet companies, whose shares have been soaring again in recent days. There are few real Internet companies in the UK, but British investors would probably plump for the telecom and computer stocks, which have been hitting new highs in recent months.

Take a look at the statistics, however, and a different picture emerges. We asked Hemmington Scott, the financial information group, to list the 20 companies in the FTSE All-Share index with the highest ratio of stock market value to revenues. (To avoid anomalies, we left out investment trusts and companies with a market capitalisation of less than £10m.)

To say the least, the results were surprising. The six most highly rated shares, and 12 of the top 20, were companies in the supposedly depressed biotechnology sector. Phyto-pharm, which specialises in developing medicines derived from plants, topped the list, even though its share price is below the level it reached al-

most two years ago. Based on sales of just £50,000 for the year to August 1997, the ratio of market value to revenues is a staggering 1,249.

Core Group, developing new methods of delivering drugs, comes second although its share price has slumped from over 200p to 40p in less than a year. And scandal-racked British Biotech takes third place with a market value to revenues ratio of 410.

Only one telecom stock, Colt Telecom, made it into the list, though with a market value of more than £6bn, the local network operator is by far the largest company in the table.

London Bridge Software, which supplies software to financial groups, made the list, as did Cambridge-based ARM, which designs specialised microprocessor chips for use in mobile phones and hand-held computers.

Valuations for biotechnology shares make the highly rated Internet stocks in the US - often presented as the height of investor folly - look positively cheap. America Online, the largest Internet group in the

THE MOST HIGHLY-RATED SHARES

Company	Activity	Price/Sales ratio
Phyto-pharm	Biotech	1,249
Core Group	Biotech	690
British Biotech	Biotech	410
Proteus International	Biotech	115
Powderject Pharmaceuticals	Biotech	96
Celtech	Biotech	70
Torotrack	Engineering	56
Emerald Energy	Oil exploration	52
Oxford GlycoSciences	Biotech	51
COLT Telecom	Telecoms	47
Cambridge Antibody Tech	Biotech	35
Carlisle Holdings	Property investor	34
London Bridge Software	Banking software	30
BTG	Patent development	29
Vanguard Medical	Biotech	22
ARM Holdings	Semiconductors	22
Oxford Asymmetry	Biotech	21
SkyePharma	Biotech	20
PPL Therapeutics	Biotech	20
Traficmaster	Traffic monitoring	18

All companies in FT All-Share index with market capitalisation over £10m, excluding investment trusts. Market value based on closing share prices on Jan 5th. Source: Hemmington Scott.

world, had revenues of \$2.6bn last year and is valued at \$89bn - a ratio of 26. Amazon.com, the internet bookseller that has taken the world by storm, is valued at 148 times its 1997 revenues.

And there is the catch. Earlier this week, Amazon said revenues for the final quarter of last year were \$250m - more than it made in the whole of 1997. The figure shows the danger in taking a current market value - which discounts future prospects - and comparing it with past financial performance. For companies where sales are

poised to explode, as in the case of biotech or Internet companies, conventional valuations soon become meaningless.

As a result, simple multiples of earnings and sales have been all but discarded by investors. They tend to prefer discounted cash-flow models, which carefully forecast a company's likely future performance and then express the value of future cash-flows in today's money.

So Phyto-pharm is highly rated because investors think its drugs have a good prospect of making it to market and cleaning up. The process may take a few years, but the rewards will be worth waiting for. "It's like panning for gold," says Andy Allans, an investment manager with Prelude. "If you have a hit you make a fortune, but you could also lose your shirt." He adds that where biotechnology companies are concerned the potential benefits are much higher because the company will have a monopoly on any drug that successfully makes it to market.

Nevertheless, the table shows that when it comes to taking a lot on trust, biotechnology investors still take the biscuit.

Wetherspoon toasts festive season

ANOTHER CONFIDENT trading statement yesterday from JD Wetherspoon, the Watford-based pub company, may turn into something like a hostage to fortune.

Wetherspoon's chairman, Tim Martin, probably thought he was taking part in an informal poll of the pub trade's fortunes over the Christmas and the New Year festive season. If so, his competitors were being much less forthcoming, and Wetherspoon's encouraging message sounded out alone.

Fourth-quarter sales apparently grew by between 5 per cent and 10 per cent, which was certainly well ahead of the market average. The upturn compared with a fall of 1 per cent in the third quarter, when Wetherspoon's sales were adversely affected both by the poor summer weather and by

a drop in pub attendances during the football World Cup in June, for which Wetherspoon declined to cater by installing TV sets in their pubs. That decision alone cost an estimated £1m in lost profits.

The chairman claims that the recent recovery in sales is mainly due to the chain's emphasis on offering value for money, which makes it less vulnerable to a recession in spending than rival pub chains that charge higher prices to pay for atmosphere and entertainment.

But Mr Martin was unwilling to give a headline figure for sales growth including new openings, and he was even less forthcoming about profits or earnings after servicing the group's substantial debt bur-



Chairman Tim Martin says the group's pubs enjoyed a Christmas recovery, but the share price barely moved

den. Analysts scaled down profit forecasts after the last full-year figures, which fell 10 per cent short of expectations at £20.1m. The outlook depends heavily on maintaining sales growth and holding down interest charges.

There was also something of a sense of déjà vu about the forecast of investing £100m and opening 80 new pubs this year, bringing the total estate to around 400 by the end of the year. It is an ambitious target for a group likely to be nursing £160m in debt by the end of the year, but it is no more than was forecast last September.

Analysts were reluctant to re-adjust their current forecasts of profits of £25.4m and earnings of 12.2p a share in the current year to 31 July, rising to £31.1m and 14.7p in the millennial year.

The share price, which has virtually halved in line with the sector over the past six months, was also slow to respond. Even at 177p yesterday, up 2p on the day, the shares are trading at 14.5 times the current year's and 12 times future earnings, which is a significant premium to most competitors.

Why the FSA is in search of a BLT

THE QUEEN has inadvertently forced over 1,000 staff at the Financial Services Authority to roam Canary Wharf in London's Docklands in a daily search for sandwiches.

Let me explain. The newly formed financial regulator is in the process of relocating all its staff to a gleaming new building in Canary Wharf. Around 1,000 are already there, including 400 banking supervisory staff who arrived last week from the Bank of England. Another 700 will arrive in coming months.

But they have nowhere to eat. The FSA's state-of-the-art canteen, designed to feed up to 2,000 people at one go, is still uncompleted, because the regulator's funds had to be switched to completing the building's reception area last autumn when the Queen announced she would be officially opening the building.

The reception area was completed ahead of schedule, but the canteen fell behind. At the beginning of December the FSA was forced to start paying staff £3.50 a day in sandwich money, a total of £20,000 a week.

"It's just a temporary payment until the canteen opens," says a spokeswoman. Hence the crowds of regulators besieging Pret a Manger in Canary Wharf. As for the Royal visit, she added that there was "a lot of of republicanism around". I'm not surprised.

RUMOUR HAS IT that Martin Taylor, recently ousted from Barclays Bank, harbours ambitions to be the next editor of the Financial Times. After all, he rose to be editor of the FT's Lex column in the early 1980s before he left the world of journalism for that of commerce.

There is one problem with this rumour. The present incumbent, Richard Lambert, 54, shows no signs of wanting to leave. Mr Lambert recently returned from the US, where he led the successful drive to expand the pink 'un's American readership. Even when he does step aside, the FT has traditionally promoted its deputy editors to the top job.

The present deputy, Andrew Gowers, 41, held the reins in London while Mr Lambert was in the US. Robert Thomson, 37, currently editing the FT's US edition, is also well thought of.

So Mr Taylor faces stiff competition for the top job at the FT. Other rumours of his intentions are that he might serve the

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

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Government in the House of Lords, that he might join a think-tank, or that he might write a book.

THE VETERAN top-rated commercial property analyst Roger Moore retired from Warburg Dillon Read on Monday after a quarter of a century as an analyst. But he's not finished yet. Yesterday Mr Moore joined the board of Hemingway Properties as a non-executive director.

Hemingway, based in the West End of London, boasts the omnipresent Stanislas Yasukovich as its chairman. The company is run by two well-known operators, Michael Goldhill (chief executive) and Andrew Browne (finance director), who shared the distinction last year of being the highest paid directors in the UK property sector, trousering a handsome £1.6m each.

If Mr Moore can get in on

that kind of action, he can look forward to a comfortable retirement.

THE MANAGEMENT team at Anita Roddick's Body Shop got an infusion of new blood yesterday with the appointment of Alastair Murray as finance director.

He joins the green toiletries company from PIC International (the Pig Improvement Company) where he was finance director of pet food producer Dalgely Food Ingredients for four years.

Jeremy Kett, Body Shop's current finance director, switches to the corporate division. The day-to-day running of the company's 1,640 stores has been left to Frenchman Patrick Gournay, headhunted from the yogurt firm Danone. He was joined by Rick Corcoran in November as head of human resources, joining from the US arm of Danone

Mowlem unit wins £24m deals

JOHN MOWLEM's facilities management subsidiary, Agumen, has been awarded four management contracts due to start in 1999 with a total value of £24m a year. Mowlem's chief executive, John Gains, announced yesterday.

The contracts are with Barclays Bank, Anglia Polytechnic University, English Partnerships and the Health & Safety Executive.

Carrying out the four contracts will require an extra 150 staff in addition to the 1,000 Agumen currently employs.

IN BRIEF

Swiss purchase

DOUGHTY HANSON, which claims to be Europe's leading independent private equity company, has agreed to acquire Tornos Bechler, based in Moutier, Switzerland.

Tornos Bechler is a leading manufacturer of high performance automatic lathes for producing precision turned machine parts. The existing management of the company will remain, and it is intended to float the business on the stock market within three to five years.

NU heads east

NORWICH UNION has been granted a licence to set up a company to sell pensions to private individuals in the east European country, Poland.

New regulations introducing personal pensions for individuals as a top up to the basic state pension are due to come into effect in Poland shortly.

Norwich Union intends to sell pensions directly to Polish citizens as well as through bank assurance and insurance company channels. The company will also use agents, Richard Harvey, the group chief executive, said.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	1.0000		
Australia	2.6270	2.6238	
Canada	19.589	19.567	
Denmark	57.427	57.285	
France	6.5595	6.5583	
Germany	16.557	16.555	
Italy	1,4237	1,4202	
Japan	165.80	165.87	
Netherlands	2.7843	2.7775	
Spain	166.46	166.43	
Sweden	9.338	9.315	
Switzerland	1.4822	1.4818	
US	1.6456	1.6456	

INTEREST RATES			
Country	3m	6m	1yr
UK	6.25%		
US	5.25%		
Germany	5.00%		
France	5.00%		
Italy	5.00%		
Spain	5.00%		
Sweden	5.00%		
Switzerland	5.00%		
Japan	5.00%		

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES			
Contract	Settlement	High	Low
Long Gilt	Mar-99	119.16	119.00
5 Yr Gilt	Mar-99	108.16	108.00
German Bund	Mar-99	116.74	116.58
Italian Govt Bond	Mar-99	129.81	129.58
Japan Govt Bond	Mar-99	94.40	94.30
3 Mth Sterling	Mar-99	94.78	94.70
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-99	96.81	96.70
3 Mth Euroyen	Mar-99	96.89	96.78
3 Mth Eurosterling	Mar-99	97.02	96.90
3 Mth Euroswap	Mar-99	98.45	98.38
3 Mth Euroswap	Mar-99	98.34	98.26
3 Mth Euro Libor	Mar-99	96.81	96.70
FTSE 100	Mar-99	6195.00	6213.50

INDUSTRIAL METALS			
UME (\$/tonne)	Cash	3 month	6 month
Aluminium HG	1224	1226	1228
Aluminium Alloy	1020	1025	1030
Copper A	1425.5	1426.5	1427.5
Lead	480	481	482
Nickel	3870	3880	3890
Tin	5015	5025	5035
Zinc	914.5	915.5	916.5

OTHER SPOT RATES			
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	1.0000		
Australia	2.6270	2.6238	
Canada	19.589	19.567	
Denmark	57.427	57.285	
France	6.5595	6.5583	
Germany	16.557	16.555	
Italy	1,4237	1,4202	
Japan	165.80	165.87	
Netherlands	2.7843	2.7775	
Spain	166.46	166.43	
Sweden	9.338	9.315	
Switzerland	1.4822	1.4818	
US	1.6456	1.6456	

BOND YIELDS			
Country	3m	6m	1yr
Australia	4.61	4.62	4.63
Belgium	3.22	3.14	3.06
Canada	4.57	4.58	4.59
France	3.21	3.17	3.13
Germany	3.21	3.17	3.13
Italy	2.49	2.40	2.31
Japan	0.31	0.31	0.31
Netherlands	3.21	3.17	3.13
Spain	3.00	2.97	2.94
Sweden	3.61	3.63	3.65
Switzerland	1.34	1.35	1.36
UK	5.60	5.59	5.58
US	4.34	4.32	4.31

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION			
Series	Call	Put	Call
6050	281.27	11.26	516.14
6100	335.32	15.27	478.16
6150	390.20	19.28	440.18
6200	445.08	23.29	402.20

AGRICULTURAL AT 5:30PM			
Cocoa	Coffee	Barley	Potatoes
LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne	LIFFE \$/tonne
Mar99 911.00	Jan99 8120.00	Jan99 78.75	Mar99 250.00
Mar99 932.00	Mar99 8174.00	Mar99 79.50	Apr99 255.50
Mar99 948.00	May99 8190.00	May99 81.25	May99 261.00
Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0

Stuart Alexander opens this two page special report on boating at the 1999 London International Boat Show

Big Blue has something for everyone

THERE IS nothing like a dose of sunshine to brighten an otherwise bleak British winter. This year's London International Boat Show is hoping to do just that. The show's theme of Big Blue (ocean), is all part of a scheme to raise the temperature of the estimated 200,000 visitors, organisers hope to attract to London's Earl's Court. The marine industry wants to entice new people into the game, showing off everything from gleaming power boats selling at close to £2 million, right down to kits costing only a few hundred pounds.

It is also looking good for consumers. As well as being the biggest one-stop shop for all things boatey, clothes, equipment, electronics, and everything from a dinghy to a luxury cruiser, the show comes hard on the heels of two interest rate cuts, a strong pound making imports cheaper, and new European legislation giving extra protection.

The rather dull title of a Recreational Craft Directive conceals a new definition of stability for all coastal and offshore boats, which should be prominently displayed. The categories run from A to D, A though D is largely applicable to small boats and dinghies, and determine how a boat is likely to perform in the conditions for

which it is being sold, A for ocean, B for offshore, C for Coastal.

If you ever wanted to know why two 25-footers can be so different in price, check the stability grading is the one you need, check if the price includes VAT - all the attractive boats should prominently give the full, inclusive price - and you could even make sure that all the parts on the boat have the correct European certification mark. It is that first, apparently irresistible, price which can lure you into a tunnel in which it is difficult to turn round and back out.

What has not yet come, though but is only a matter of time, is any form of European-wide licenses, either to use boats, or for the boats themselves. While many European countries do insist of both written and practical examinations, Britain maintains its voluntary system, though there are increasing signs of statutory regulation for jet-ski users. Which means there will be lots of stands offering to teach you all the ins and outs, at home and abroad, complete with certificates at the end, which are accepted by the other European countries.

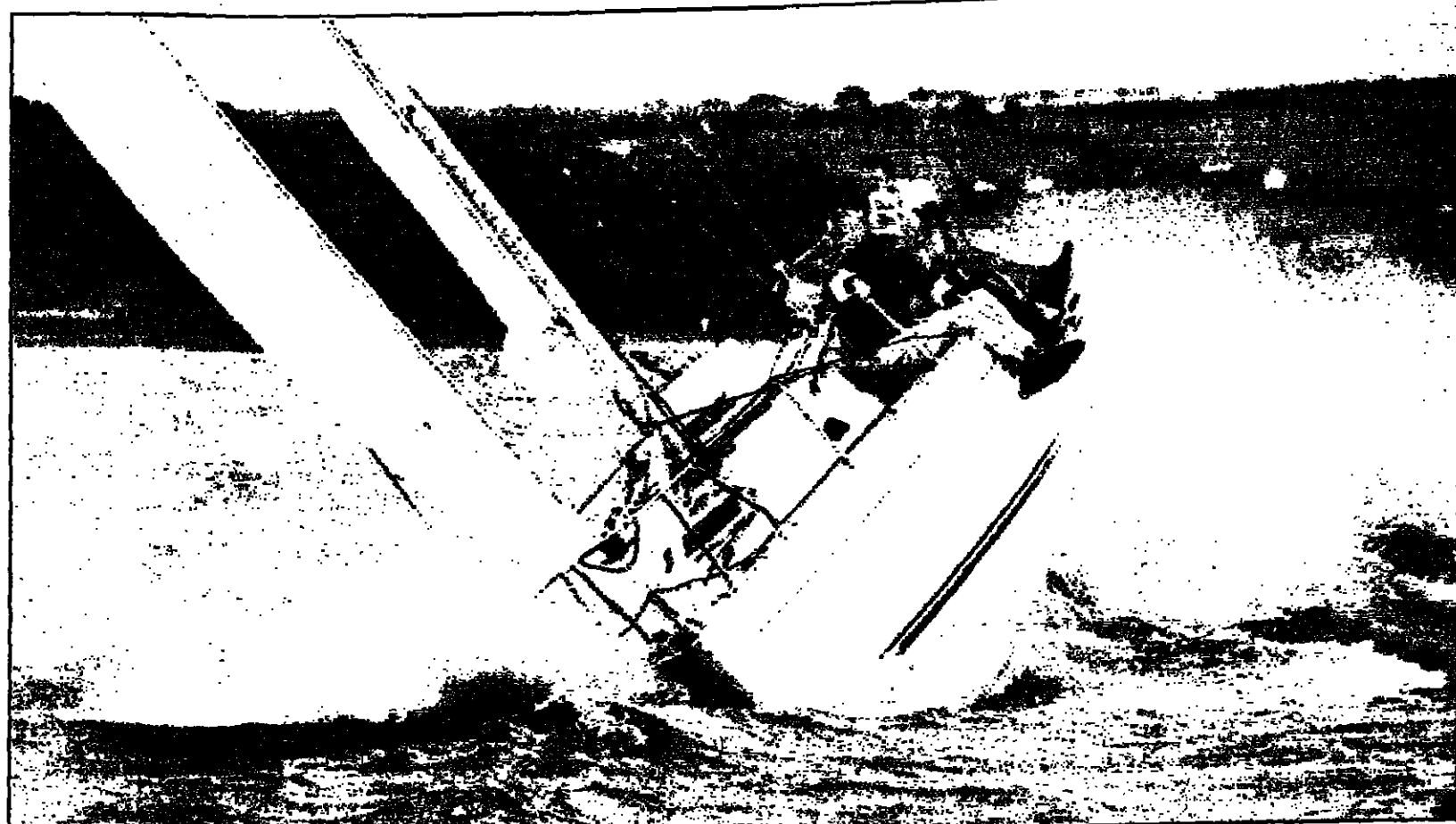
And the schemes extend to those with disabilities through the growing Sailability pro-

gramme, once again driven by the RYA.

Having bought your boat and learned a bit about how best to use it, you may also wish to park it. This logical desire used to be a real nightmare and there are still many areas of the country where there are very long waiting lists for low cost, publicly administered moorings. One of the largest operators of marinas, with 5,500 berths nationwide, is MDL. Their marketing director Jeff Houlgrave expects prices to rise by about 6 per cent. in 1999, so an average 30-footer could cost just under £2,000 to keep in Plymouth and about double that on their most expensive marina in the Hamble River, close to the Solent.

But he points out that not only have amenities and service had to improve as customers demand more, they have also had to spend more on their infrastructure to meet the increasingly tight environmental legislation, and this he gives as the main cause for the rise above inflation.

Mr Houlgrave also says there were many years when price rises lagged behind inflation as a whole section of the leisure industry coped with declining consumer confidence and the aftermath of stagflation. Perhaps holding down prices



Sailing in Cowes: Appealing to more than just the rich and famous

Robert Hallam

accounts for his reported 10 per cent increase in occupancy for each of the last four years. Now he would be prepared to tell the Chancellor, Gordon Brown he is optimistic that, at worst, while growth may slow, there will be no real downturn, and that by 2001 the pressure will be upwards again.

Which may be why one of the most popular sectors of new sailing boat sales is in the 40-foot range, and that means starting at about £100,000. And why the power boat market continues to flourish, taking about 75 per cent. of new boat sales in 1998.

That has persuaded Peter Poland, boss of one of the most enduring of British manufacturers, Hunter Boats, to produce its first motor yacht.

Called the Landau and designed by his long-time collaborator David Thomas, it is 20 feet long, costs just under £20,000 all up, and has just won a design award. Not just for its use of space, but for environmentally friendly inputs such as minimal wake, a four-stroke outboard for coastal use, and an electric engine option for inland waterways and lakes.

As part of his assessment that interest rates are going to be driven down, Hunter has also arranged a 9.3 per cent. finance package, and it will be interesting to see what the finance houses are doing generally at the Boat Show. There are reported to be many good deals on offer. Where there is dispute is over the effect of the high value of the pound. Some

UK manufacturers can point to considerable consumer benefit at their expense as importers take a short term advantage that has lasted three years and considerably boosted their incomes. Others with a strong export heritage, like the big powerboat manufacturers - Fairline, Princess and Sunseeker - seem to be holding on to their European sales.

The show at Earl's Court will also highlight clothes that have made British manufacturers among the best in the world. The names of Henri Lloyd, Musto and Douglas Gill are to be found all over Europe and the United States as sports. If you can be persuaded to look the part, perhaps you can then be persuaded to act it, to try it, to enjoy it.

Big BLUE

45th London International Boat Show

Dates: 8 - 17 January

Location: Earl's Court, London

Times: 10am - 7pm (except Thursday 14 January, open until 9.30pm, and Sunday 17 January, closing at 6pm)

Prices: Adults £10.50; Accompanied children Free (two per paying adult); Unaccompanied/additional children £7.50; Senior citizens £7.50; Group bookings (10 or more) £7.50; Evenings only (after 5pm) £6.50

Ticket hotline: 0121-767 4600

More choices available for sailing enthusiasts

HOW LONG does it take before you can have a license to drive a boat? A very long time if the current thinking at the Royal Yachting Association persists. While other European countries have insisted on introducing formal qualification schemes, Britain has resisted, with the support of the Department of Trade and Industry, and has, instead, insisted that its voluntary scheme of learning produces better boat users.

However, there are many harbour masters who would like to see such a statutory scheme introduced, only if they could exercise the sanction of suspending the licenses on who could play the cowboy on their territory. And there is a particularly determined attack on the Jet Ski fraternity, a few of whom are causing serious attacks of nerves about the safety of others trying to share the same stretches of water.

But Britain has good cause to think that its system is working well. Its certificates of competence are accepted throughout Europe, and about 100,000 a year of them are issued. They are a bit like an in-

BY STUART ALEXANDER

ternational driving license and although the form of them is being renegotiated so that a new version will be available from 1 April this year (1999), the RYA hopes that holders of existing certificates will be able to continue to use them.

Nor is there any current move to license boats, not even to make third party insurance compulsory - insurers are more

worried about theft - there is a growing number of people who want to have some sort of proof of competence, and quite a few feel that compulsion is only a matter of time.

There are 538 schools, large and multifunctional down to a one man one boat enterprise, which are recognised by the RYA. There are 121 of them in the UK ranging from the ever-popular but very tidal Solent to the quieter West Country and West of Scotland and, for those who like to tackle both tides and some shallow water, the East Coast, especially of East Anglia.

With all these choices, taking the plunge is being made easier and easier. Many schools offer a taster day, with all the kit provided. Courses can be split between going afloat in the summer and finishing off the work in the classroom in the winter. There are many motor boat courses and, as new motor boat sales far outnumber new sailboat sales, the authorities are very keen on the powerboat fraternity becoming as qualified

which includes some time in the classroom ashore, and a coastal skipper, which, as well as more complex navigation, also puts the skipper through all the functions of running the boat and its equipment.

Sail boats have their equivalent, starting with competent crew, but working all the way up to Yachtmaster Ocean, which should mean that you can handle an Atlantic crossing and will give you a government-backed skipper's ticket.

Windsurfers, of course, are in plenty of trouble if they need offshore navigation, but they will have safety included in any course which starts with the simple problem of standing up, making a 100-yard distance, turning round and coming back again.

That's why these crafts are so popular at the Mediterranean schools and holiday clubs; at least when, not if, you fall in the water is warm and there is usually some sun to warm you through. There are even some schools specialising in Sea Survival.

Simply put, if you want to get involved in sailing there is no better time than now.

THE IN'S AND OUT'S

On a more advanced level there is a Day Skipper course,

If conventional learning is not for you then, the school can come to you. Many powerboat owners take their courses on their own boats from qualified instructors. They range from a simple, two-day helmsman's course, which should set a few more minds at rest as they look over their shoulders apprehensively at 35 to 40 feet of gleaming white plastic charging into a crowded marina. It should also set more at rest the minds of the crew, who can be included in the course.

On a more advanced level there is a Day Skipper course,

Marine inspired fashion goes major

LOOK COOL, stay warm. And dry. One of the buzz words in fashion has, for some time now, been functionality and sailing clothes have been at the forefront of that trend, which has also seen sports clothes move from specialist shops and outlets to the rails of the high street majors.

It was British designers who took the European catwalks by storm and now, as the function angle begins to be picked up in Europe, so are British manufacturers like Henri Lloyd, Musto and Douglas Gill have been finding a ready market for clothes born out of a marine background. Nor for once, is their any bleating about exports being rocked by the high exchange rate value of the pound. Daniel White, of Henri Lloyd, and Nigel Musto agree when they say that price and the pound are not the defining factors, but style and quality.

Musto also points to the integrity of the clothes on offer. "You cannot design and innovate new sports clothes from behind a desk," says Musto, who took to the sharp end in 1998 by completing, with Andy Hindley the two-handed Round Britain and Ireland Race in a 60-footer.

And this means, much more quickly than in motor racing or



Comfortability and style are the focus in Henri-Lloyd's sportswear collection

FASHION

much more relevantly than buying an off-road vehicle, that the technical developments for specialist applications filter down to the average user much more quickly.

One of those is in the choice of fabrics, where materials that both breathe, so reducing condensation on the inside, but which also keep the water out are in much more general use. "These fabrics are now beginning to have a much greater impact on a market where not only is there a lot of repeat business, but a tendency to replace a much-loved jacket with the same again," says White. "But these new materials are now coming in at mid-price and we hope people will begin to choose the new thing. But, as the Italians say, every year is a new painting, it's a real roller coaster out there. Hit it right and you are the golden boy, hit it wrong and you are history." He also knows he is, to some extent, in competition with other sports who want to persuade non-participants to buy their clothes and so look part of the scene.

As Musto points out, how-

ever, the clothes he is producing have to perform in the environment for which they are designed. The same clothes which must keep you warm when sitting doing nothing and dry when great dollops of water are being thrown over the bow of a yacht have also to allow you to work hard and unfettered. The trick has been to find the path between the bulk which would normally be associated with the first two and the light freedom preferable for the second.

For Musto that has meant incorporating some of the techniques developed for ocean racing into clothes for inshore racing. And those include making a smock, with seals at neck

and wrists, instead of jackets, which needed all sorts of flaps and closures to keep those nasty rivulets of water trickling down the back of the neck. Gill, too, have produced a similar garment after using the American Whitbread Race entry Chessie Racing as a test bed. That racing heritage continues for Musto with the launch at the Boat Show of the Pete Goss range. The link goes further than just clothes as Musto are major sponsors of Goss's entry in The Race, a no holds barred, non-stop dash around the world in boats of unlimited size and design and scheduled to start on 31 December 2000.

And Gill continues to back

and provide the clothes for Britain's Olympic squad. All of which, says Liz Rushall, helps to reinforce the credibility of those clothes to High Street buyers. As she says, even someone walking the dog in the park wants to know that the technical features which led them to choose the clothes in the first place are genuine.

But there is still a steady market for a good set of oilies, trousers and jacket, with safety features that are not just harnesses, but colours and reflective patches that mean you should first stay aboard but second be more visible in the water if you go overboard. But for those who want really high fashion there is always Prada.

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WHATEVER THE January weather outside, there is always an attempt to bring some summer sun to the interior of Earl's Court and those who are selling the real thing, the holiday that is still six months away.

The idea of cruising in the Mediterranean goes back a long way, but was only available to the very few and, remarkably, the opportunity for middle Britain to go cruising abroad did not really happen until 1975/76. Lots of them went across the Channel and the North Sea, over to Ireland, up to Scotland. But the Med was too far for most to take their own boats, and if you did not have your own boat or some very friendly friends then you did not go.

BY STUART ALEXANDER

Enter a man called Eric Richardson from East Grinstead, who is credited with being the founding father of Brits on Cruise in the Mediterranean, or Greece to be more exact, with the Yacht Cruising Association. He was followed a couple of years later by a company called Greek Sailing Holidays, with 12 boats. That company was eventually to become SunSail and it now has 750 boats, making it, as the French-based Moorings has reduced its fleet to 700, the biggest of its kind in the world. Nearly all of that with UK customers.

In the early '80s Eric Richardson again led the way by persuading his customers

that Turkey was a splendid option - and it still is today. The Dalmatian coast of former Yugoslavia followed, more companies developed their on packages and what in 1982 had already grown to a 200-boat pool has today blossomed to 10 times that amount at about 2,000. And SunSail, which was selling about 10,000 package holidays a year in 1993, has seen sales rise to about 58,000 in 1998.

Which is less than a good day's worth of people through Gatwick. This is still a fairly exclusive little band and it is spreading itself even more thinly round the world as more and more destinations are added to the menu.

There are basically three types of holiday on offer, with

the opportunity to learn bolted on. These are: chartering a boat and taking it yourself, known as bareboat charter, though the name misleads as more and more comforts are being demanded and supplied on even small boats. Then there is a flotilla holiday, where perhaps as many as a dozen

windsurfing, dinghy sailing, even mountain biking when the mood takes you.

At home or abroad. There are still many opportunities to take the Swallows and Amazons road to the Norfolk Broads, or cruise the West Country, the Scottish Islands, just about anywhere there is a decent stretch

leave immediately for SunSail's latest set-up in Antigua. The Moorings has a huge fleet in the Caribbean.

Not surprisingly, the customers have become more demanding. Boats tend to be bigger than the 25 or 26 foot cruisers on which people started. A first class infrastructure has to deal not only with making notoriously unreliable charter flights into a smooth transfer, but ensuring that all the right foods are available for those buffet breakfasts and that, if a mast breaks, a replacement can be fitted in 24 hours.

Staffing the fleets at clubs is also a problem as, for instance, SunSail offer RYA-qualified instructors, qualified nannies for

the under-twos and all sorts of skills in between. Keeping the turnover to the minimum and the quality up is a major managerial task. As in every other walk of life, consumers are being encouraged to complain more and more.

With a huge amount of kit to play with, prices are still reasonable. About GBP650 per person for two weeks half board at one of SunSail's Greek clubs, rising to GBP1,195 at the height of school summer holidays. Those prices would GBP1,140 to GBP2,200 in the Caribbean. Charters in the Caribbean range from GBP715 per person to GBP1,715 (at Christmas) for two weeks in a 34-footer and GBP438 to GBP1,078 for a similar deal in the Mediterranean.

But the clubs have proved popular because it allows each member of the family to do what they want, often within their own age group. SunSail offer a Penguin Club from 2-4s, Sea Urchins from 5-7, Junior Gybers from 8-12, and Beach Team from 13-16. Each has its own programme, meaning that the young are looked after every day from 9.30am to 5.00pm, and each is free within the cost of the holiday. Older teens can look after themselves.

But for those who think lying on a beach or messing about close to the shore is all too wimpy for words, take note even if the thought of doing nothing doesn't appeal to you - the price will.

HOLIDAY MARKET

yachts cruise in company, all given a daily destination, following a leader who also makes arrangements for mooring overnight and trips ashore, and generally creating safety in numbers. And there is the club resort holiday, where you can just laze on the beach or try

of water. And, for those with deep enough pockets and an adventurous bent there are now holidays in the Polynesian islands of the south Pacific, in the Seychelles, Australia, New Zealand and islands like Tonga, and you can even negotiate a 25 per cent discount if you can

Appeal of power yachts on the rise

POWERBOATS HAVE been the growth sector of the yachting market in recent years. For every sailboat that takes to the water, four powerboats are launched. It is British builders that are leading the world in the design and technology for this exciting market. Every day, at least ten powerboats are completed in British yards, but there is a growing challenge from both American and European builders as the strong pound starts to bite.

BY DAG PIKE

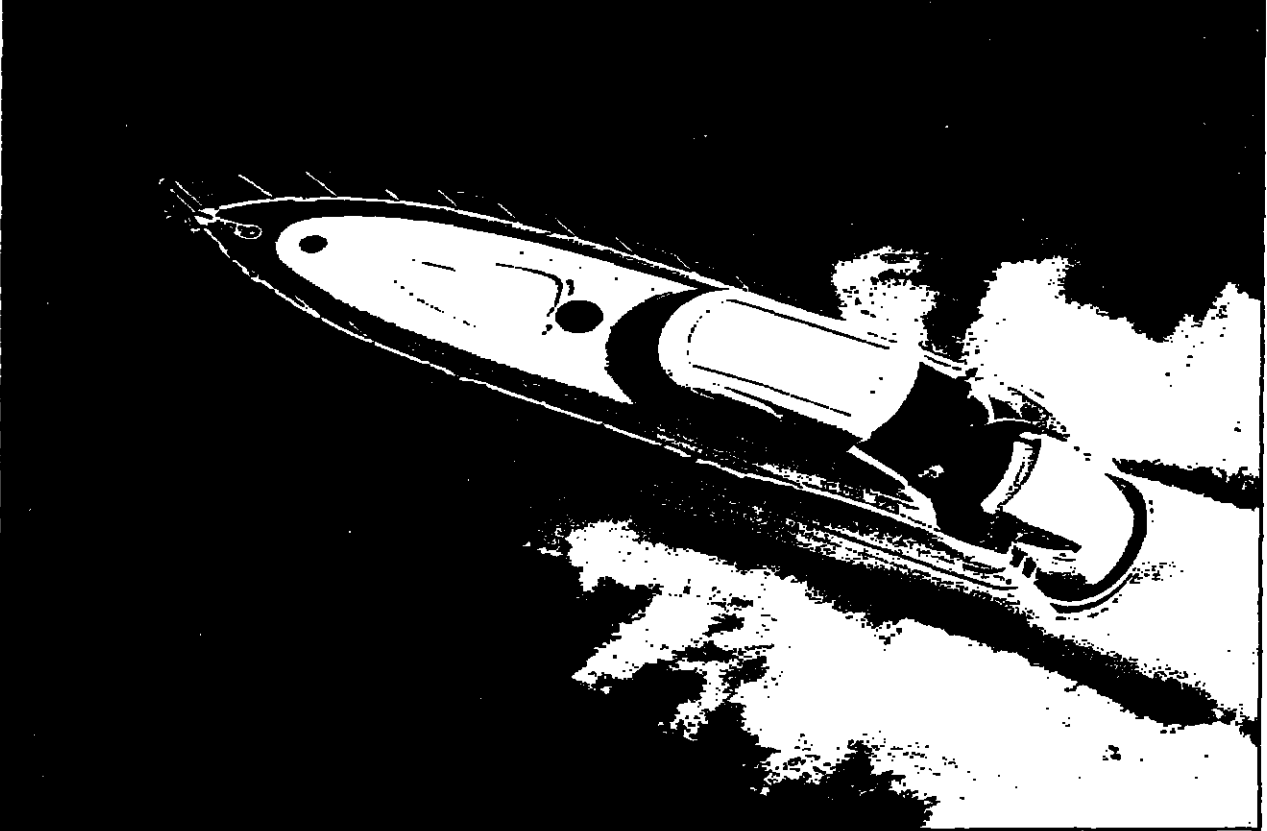
have sold up or are earning enough to have a powerboat as part of their new world where they start to enjoy life. Sunseeker have supplied powerboats to many of the Grand Prix racing drivers including Michael Schumacher. But powerboats are not just for the rich and famous, there is a new adventure market developing, and the rigid inflatables

seas and explore remote coastlines, just as 4-wheel drive owners don't all want to go off-road, but it is the image that counts. The RIB looks professional and it is also a safe and forgiving boat and this is what makes it attractive to many new entrants to the power market.

The sportsboat market is still very much alive and the main British builders are Fletcher and Shakespeare. These British builders are facing a major challenge mainly from American imports. In the U.S. sportsboats are built in huge numbers, thus quantity building keeps prices down. These US boats not only have a very dashing style but they are also price competitive, particularly with the pound at its current high level.

both production and custom designs. South Coast RIBs will be introducing its new Ribeye range in March which not only includes a range of stylish RIBs but also all the clothing and accessories to go with the RIB lifestyle.

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A highlight of this year's Sunseeker models: The Predator 80

Dag Pike

By car industry standards the numbers are small but then you have to remember that a top of the range Sunseeker can cost a cool £2 million. Even the more moderate flybridge cruisers from the top builders such as Fairline, Marine Projects and Sealine can cost upwards of £200,000 so that boat building is now big business.

Who can afford to buy these luxury yachts that gleam under the boat show lights? You might think that they are just for the very rich who want to sit in the sophistication of Monte Carlo, the tax exiles who want to run to the sun. Well these represent some of the customers, but the majority are successful businessmen or executives who

which serve this market are the fastest growing sector of the marine industry.

Rigid inflatables or RIBs were first developed 32 years ago as rescue boats for the RNLI. Then they were adopted by many professional operators and now they have expanded into a vast leisure market with probably over 100,000 new boats every year worldwide. If the big Sunseekers are the Rolls Royce of the yacht market, then the RIB is the 4-wheel drive equivalent, a boat which can go anywhere and do anything. Not all owners of RIBs want to go out in rough

they build these days, they build three RIBs. This shows how the small powerboat market is changing. The RIB industry is reaching maturity and it supports its own specialist magazine and boat show, but all the top builders will be at the London Show.

Avon Inflatables, which was one of the pioneers, will be introducing a new range of leisure RIBs where the emphasis is on colour and style. Delta, which previously concentrated on the commercial markets, has introduced its Levander range of leisure RIBs and Ribtec and Ribcraft offer

the largest in the Poole area. Both employ close to 1000 people and spend a considerable part of their turnover on research and development for new models. Sunseeker International reports a turnover of £74 million last year and is expanding its production facilities to accommodate larger motor yachts than its current flagships, the Manhattan 80 and the Predator 80.

This year, Sunseeker will

have the largest motor yacht ever exhibited on its stand at the London Show. The Manhattan 74 may be the smaller sister of the 80, but it will look huge in the confines of Earl's Court. Getting it there will be a logistics nightmare, but its curvaceous design is a trend-setter with a top speed of 35 knots and luxury to match.

For those wanting real performance, the Mark II Superhawk 48 from Sunseeker offers

speeds up to 60 knots. For the more cautious, there are a whole range of new designs down including the comfortable Camargue 44.

Also, we will see major Italian builder Ferretti exhibiting 53 flybridge cruiser for the first time at London and other Italian builders such as Azimut and Cranchi are also looking for increased sales.

Whilst much attention has been focused on the larger,

high performance motor yachts, other builders are having a fresh look at entry level boats which appeal to first time buyers. Fairline which builds yachts up to 65 feet, will be introducing the Targa 30 at London which offers excellent value for money.

As the car market becomes increasingly regulated, powerboats offer a form of escape which cannot be matched by anything else.

UK Windsurfing culture coming into its own

BY BILL DAWES

FIFTEEN YEARS ago, windsurfing was big business in the UK. First appearing commercially in the US in the mid-seventies, the windsurfer quickly caught the public imagination worldwide, and in the early eighties it seemed as though every other car on the road had a board on the roof rack. In those days there was actually little alternative for anyone seeking an easily accessible and available "adrenaline sport" - mountain biking, snowboarding, rollerblading, paragliding, indoor climbing and so many other modern action options were yet to hit the scene.

The industry has spent the years since that initial boom "downsizing" to a more realistic level. Although it will never return to the heady heights of those initial boom years, it still accounts for a multi-million pound share of the leisure activity market, with somewhere between a hundred thousand and a quarter of a million active participants in the UK. It has learned to coexist with the newer adrenaline sport - indeed, most windsurf retailers now also stock the goods for many other action options, switching priorities according to the season.

While still largely run by active enthusiasts, the industry has become much more professional about its business, as has the sport in general. Windsurfing today looks very different to how it did in those early years. In Britain it is governed by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), who have put together what is widely regarded as the best teaching system in the world, particularly in regard to introducing children to the sport.

The RYA also manages competition training, with considerable success. An Olympic medal has proved elusive for our sailors as yet, although a podium position at Athens 2000 is not outside the reach of our present lottery-funded Olympic



Top UK professional Nigel Howell, showcasing the ability of UK Windsurfers in rough conditions off the coast of Tiree in the Inner Hebrides.

John Carter

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squad. However, British sailors have really proved a force to be reckoned with in the realms of "funboard" (high wind) competition, with racers such as Jamie Hawkins and Ross Williams regularly winning the Production board World Championships, and the brothers Nik and Ant Baker high in the top ten World Professional rankings. Nik has on several occasions won the British Wind-

ately high number of World Championships.

It also says something about the windsurfing conditions on offer here in the UK. While the warm blue waters of the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Hawaii may provide much more appealing imagery and make for more comfortable learning, the ocean swells and surf battering our western shores and low pressure sys-

tem are also much wider than those of yesteryear, which increases the stability yet further.

Windsurfing is now very much a year-round sport. However, the sport tends to go fairly low profile through the winter and starts properly in March at the Windsurf and Sailboat exhibition at Alexandra Palace which will be the first real opportunity to see all the new 1999 product line-ups from the major brands.

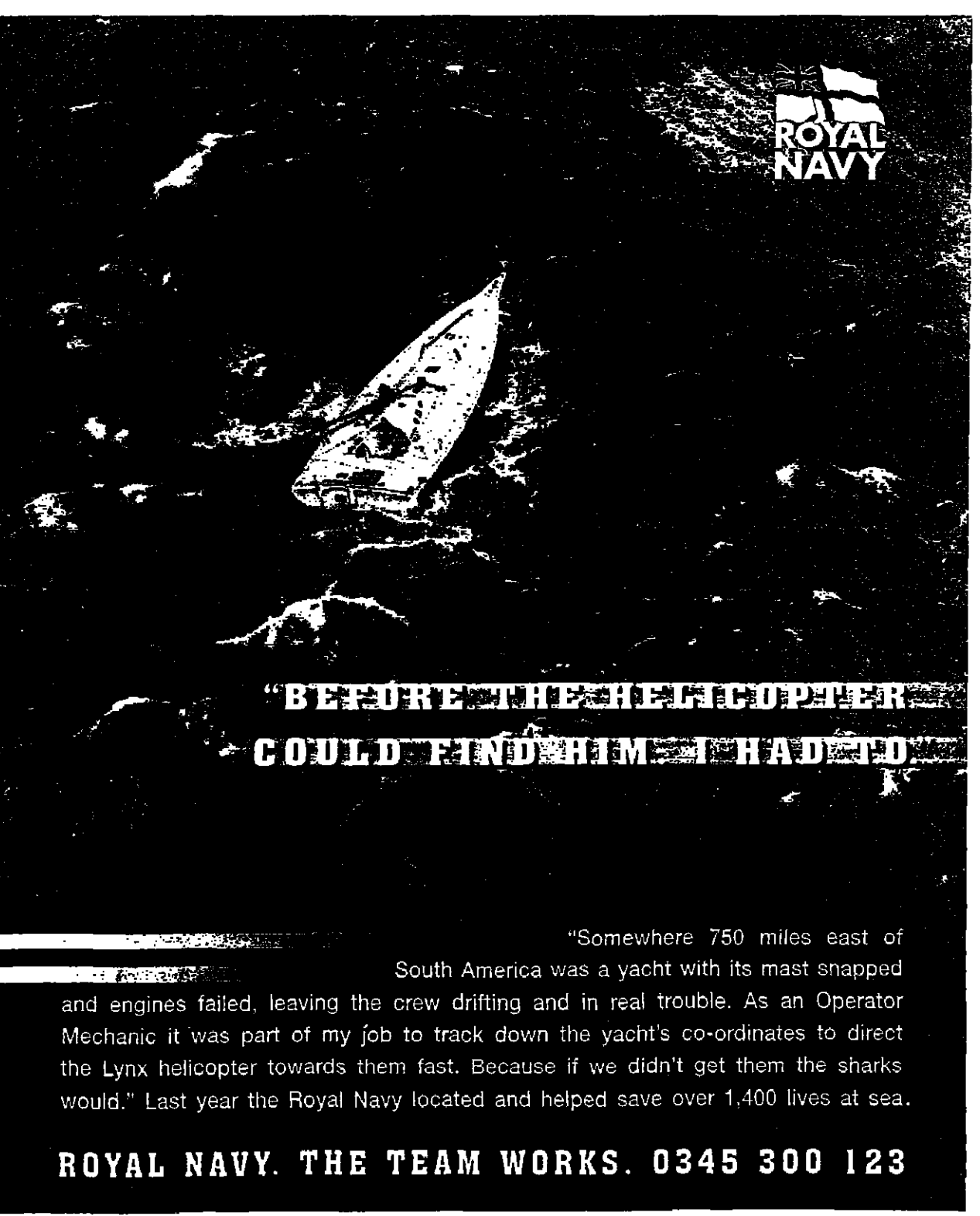
For more information on any aspect of windsurfing contact the RYA on 01703 627400. Bill Dawes is the editor of UK's *Boards Windsurfing Magazine*.

WINDSURFING

surfing World Cup event at Brighton, and is also many-times world Indoor windsurfing champion.

Windsurfing has proved to be another of the "minority sports" that Britain excels in but rarely gets reported on. It is no mean feat to do well on the windsurfing Professional Tour, which is exceptionally hard-fought, with the top sailors making millions in prize money and sponsorship.

It is a tribute to the immense talent and dedication of our sailors and teaching systems that the British contingent has won such a disproportionate



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SPORT

Hard days but better than cheating and spite

WHENEVER FOOTBALL matches from the distant past are shown on television someone is sure to say that forms of aggression then considered permissible would be severely punished in the present climate.

For example, when looking back recently on the ferociously contested FA Cup final replay between Chelsea and Leeds United at Old Trafford in 1970, a prominent figure among referees pointed out five incidents that would today bring about instant dismissal.

Football was meant to be a hard game. This was once stated without fear of contradiction on the unimpeachable authority of the hard men themselves. They kept repeating it



KEN JONES

to remind themselves that nobody on the field of play could be trusted.

Nowadays football is not one thing or another. Not as rough as many old players remember but so at odds with FIFA's misguided attempt at reducing physical contact

that cheating and spite have become commonplace.

Once rare, elbowing incidents are on the increase along with the shirt-pulling that was a highlight on last summer's World Cup finals.

It is a matter of individual opinion whether attitudes in football have changed for the better, but a view held personally is that the old ways were somehow better.

Take the commotion caused this week by Arsenal's refusal to concede that Fabian Caballero was guilty of violent conduct when flattening Ryan Kilday with an upraised arm during a third-round FA Cup tie at Preston.

Coming so soon after Patrick Vieira's dismissal for flinging an

elbow at Neil Redfearn of Charlton, it implied that little has been done to correct Arsenal's frightful disciplinary record - 18 players sent off - under Arsène Wenger's management.

Doubtless this, and similar controversies, will be on the agenda at a meeting to be held shortly between Premier League managers and referees. Both sides could put the point that advancements in speed and general fitness have made it impossible to arrive at an equitable conclusion.

As I remember it, most referees accepted that there is a line so fine as to be almost undistinguishable between the viciously callous and the coldly competent.

That today's crop get much more hotly exercised about tussles for the ball is largely due to FIFA's loose thinking, but gaps in the education of players must also be taken into consideration. Anyone who has been around football long enough to have seen some of the greatest defenders cannot fail to arrive at the conclusion that not many of today's heroes have been properly schooled in the art of dispossession.

Statistics might disprove it, but the impression here is that not many defenders in the Premier League are worth the money they are getting.

It is not their fault that they are indoctrinated in a different code to their predecessors, but spite is no

way to compensate for technical shortcomings.

Myths can grow tall in three or four decades but, as many can testify, the game back then was unquestionably harder. This applied as much to some fabled attackers as it did to tough defenders.

A few days ago I was in conversation about this with Maurice Setters, who turned out for Manchester United in the 1963 FA Cup final and was assistant manager of the Republic of Ireland under Jack Charlton.

Setters, who is now employed by the Premier League's coaching department, said: "A big difference in my time was that a lot more players had grown up in a hard school and knew how to take care of themselves."

"I cringe when I see guys hanging in now, asking to be hurt, not having much of a clue about protecting themselves."

An extremely hard player himself, Setters recalled that caution was advisable when coming up against some of his day's famed attackers.

"They didn't go looking for trouble," he said, "but trying to intimidate them was just asking for trouble."

"Now it's all pathetic shirt-pulling, cheating for free-kicks and spiteful elbowing. Things have come into English football that were once totally foreign to our way of playing."

As for the sight of a genuine hard case, the species in English football is almost extinct.



After 35 years in the sport Bob Champion, 50, is positive about his future: 'I'll cope. I'll survive. I'll bounce back, don't you worry about that. I'm not just going to lie down and die' Trevor Jones

Champion still beating the odds

WHEN HE has heard the loudest applause the silence must be strange for Bob Champion. It was a quiet Christmas at the trainer's Newmarket yard because the horses have gone now. Robert Champion MBE, the conqueror of cancer and Aintree, will no longer be a racehorse trainer at the end of the month. After 35 years in the sport he is retiring.

There will be no tears, though, from Bob Champion. He knows there are more important things to save them for. Indeed, at the same time as Champion's trainer's licence lapses he will, once again, point his car south towards the Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey for an annual check-up.

Doctors will conduct blood tests and take x-rays to determine whether Champion's body continues to be free of the cancer he beat 20 years ago. Each year the prospect terrifies him and, as soon as he turns off the M25 towards Sutton, he feels the smell of chemotherapy come all over him. "I can't sleep for two weeks before I go," he says. "I never take anything for granted. It's still a great worry. It's going to be quite a month for me."

As the season might suggest, a little pantomime is played out each time medical staff emerge to give Champion his results. "I'm sure they come in deliberately looking miserable," he says. "They know how much I worry and they string

Having beaten cancer and ridden Aldaniti to Grand National fame the jockey turned trainer faces an uncertain future after handing in his licence. By Richard Edmondson

it out, asking me how my charity is doing, before they eventually put me out of my misery."

The end came for Champion's 16-year training career when he started to do some sums. His best season was the 1984-85 campaign, in which he saddled 11 winners. After that he did not manage double figures again. Eventually, his career was killed by financial strangulation.

"I broke even over the last two or three years purely because I kept the

numbers down," he says. "Look how many others have stopped recently, the likes of Lynda Ramsden, Geoff Oldroyd, Charlie Brooks, Julie Cecil and Lord Huntingdon, so it's not just me. It's becoming a trend."

"At the time I decided to retire I did a calculation about Martin Pipe, a great trainer. He had won 61 races by then and was well clear of anyone else with horses which had earned £199,000 win and place. With his percentage that gave him

£18,000, which is what I would reckon to be the profit, as the training fee is cancelled out by the costs. So he didn't earn that much and he's meant to be the best. What chance have the rest of us got?"

Bob Champion himself was given little chance when he was first diagnosed with testicular cancer in 1973. There are not many harder men around than National Hunt jockeys but Champion tells you that on this occasion he was frightened by a single word in the dictionary. The jockey endured operations and chemotherapy which became so painful that he began to wish he had been killed on the racetrack.

He was pulled through partly by a dream he had replayed since childhood. As a boy, Bob would set his mates sniggering at the picture house as they watched Pathe News' reports of the Grand National. Young Robert told his giggling audience it was a race he too would win.

Well, he did the hard bit by becoming a jockey and then, one day, his orbit collided with that of a tough old chestnut called Aldaniti. He was not the fastest of horses, an animal wracked by tendon problems, but the gelding possessed a fighter's temperament. He would gallop through

razor wire if required and Champion always considered him a National horse. It was a belief which sustained him through the darkest moments.

On 4 April, 1981, Aldaniti and Bob Champion went to post with 38 others at Aintree. Several minutes later both their lives had changed irrevocably. In the wake of victory, cheques from all over the world started landing at the Royal Marsden, simply care of Bob Champion, some just to "the jockey". The Bob Champion Cancer Trust was born. From its inception close to £7m has been collected for cancer research and the eponymous fundraiser has become much more than just another retired jockey.

"Some aspects of my life have got a lot harder, but hopefully the Cancer Trust has helped a lot of people," Champion says. "For the little bit of privacy I have lost from my personal life it's not a big price to pay to help

these people who are fighting. Every life we can prolong, every life we can save, makes me feel chuffed to bits."

Champion saw the end of Aldaniti almost two years ago when the old horse died aged 26, and in three weeks' time he will witness the termination of his career. He hopes to remain at the Cleveland House yard he purchased over two years ago and rent out the 24 boxes. "It's a bit quieter round here now," he says, "but I still throw my leg over a horse in the mornings."

Bob Champion is 50 now and there are the nicks about his face which remind you of his former career. Champion has been divorced twice by women who claimed that while their former spouse may have been saved by the angels he did not fit readily into their company. The ex-trainer does not know what is coming next, but he has no fear. "I've got a few possibilities but nothing certain at the moment," Champion says. "But I'll cope. I'll survive. I'll bounce back, don't you worry about that. I'm not just going to lie down and die." We know.

TOMORROW

ATTEMPTING TO TAME THE TIGERS: BARKING. RUGBY UNION'S WOULD-BE GIANT-KILLERS

Fury at Tyson's 'Botha to die'

BOXING

BY SIMON STONE AND MARK STANFORTH

MIKE TYSON has shocked the boxing world by saying that he "expects François Botha to die" in their fight in Las Vegas later this month.

During a press conference on Tuesday night, Tyson's anger got the better of him once again as he gave short answers and ended with an obscenity-ridden rant. The American former heavyweight world champion and the South African Botha meet on 16 January in Tyson's first fight since being banned for biting Evander Holyfield's ear in 1997.

In his most outspoken statement, Tyson said: "Absolutely, I am going right at him and I expect him to go down cold. I expect him to die."

Tyson's return to the ring already promises to be short-lived. He pleaded no contest on assault charges stemming from an August traffic accident in Maryland, and faces up to 20 years in jail.

Asked if he thought he would be able to avoid trouble that long, Tyson said: "I don't know anybody who stays out of trouble for 20 years. I may not live for 20 years."

The uncertainty has clouded Tyson's boxing future, but talk has inevitably moved on to the prospect of Tyson meeting the winner of March's unification bout between Holyfield and Lennox Lewis.

"It is one fight at a time, one fight at a time," Tyson said. "Let's just get through this one, then I will answer questions about the next."

Even before his first fight back from exile, Tyson has run into trouble, and the backlash against him has started. Henry Cooper, the former British heavyweight champion, said: "I just can't understand why boxers persist in making these statements. Tyson is not a kid anymore and he knows that people do get killed in the ring. If it happens, it only fuels the anti-boxing arguments."

"Money is the god now," Cooper added. "When I went into the ring I wanted to prove I was the better fighter, not to kill someone. Fighters seem to think they have to make statements like these to sell their contests, but I don't recall Joe Louis saying anything like that."

"There used to be a certain dignity within fighters, each pitting their skills against the other. Sadly, those days are long gone."

The veteran British promoter and former fighter Mickey Duff echoed Cooper's views, and claimed Tyson should have his licence to fight removed. "Statements like these are detrimental to boxing and boxing and only add more weight to the anti-boxing lobby," he said. "I had 69 professional fights and I never wanted to kill anyone."

"It is particularly unfortunate coming so soon after the death of Jerry Quarry. It is bad for his memory. People are entitled to be allowed to earn a living, but sometimes they go too far."

Britain's former world flyweight champion, Charlie Magri, reacted with disgust to Tyson's words. "If you want boxing to survive, you will have to do it without Mike Tyson," he said.

"He was good for the game at one point, but the sooner he has his licence taken away the better."

"Boxing is all about winning on points and knocking people out - not killing them," Magri added. "Tyson is just a bully and, whenever he fights people who are not intimidated by him, he loses."



Joy as Champion lands the 1981 Grand National on Aldaniti

Gunnell prodigy back in running



New faces for 1999:
Julie Pratt (left)
is showing the
tenacity of her
famous clubmate
as she fights back
from an early upset.
By Mike Rowbottom

AMONG THE many success stories of 1998 for British athletics, that of a junior athlete bears re-examination. You could call it the Fall and Rise of Julie Pratt.

In the summer of 1997, at the European Junior Championships, she had led at the final barrier in the 100 metre hurdles final only to fall with such force that she grazed herself from head to toe.

A year on, the 19-year-old Essex girl made the most of her final opportunity of racing at junior level when she won the world title in Annecy, France, against a field that included four competitors who had run faster than her best of 13.52sec.

Both Pratt and the silver medalist, Hongwei Sun of China, were timed at 13.75sec, edging out the Chinese entrant Hongwei Sun, who had a best of 12.92.

That the runners got away after four false starts in teaming rain may have helped Pratt achieve her ambition. "It was absolutely terrible weather," she said. "When I woke up that morning I could see that it was going to be awful. But it didn't really bother me, because I was used to running in the rain."

After getting an outstanding start, Pratt found herself level with the Chinese girl with two barriers left. "When I cleared the last hurdle I just closed my eyes and went for the line," she said. "I didn't know I'd won until I heard the announcement." The news prompted loud celebration in the stand from Pratt's parents, David and Arlene. "It was very emotional," recalled Pratt, who now faces the tricky challenge of a transition from junior to senior ranks.

Pratt is following in a long line of Essex Ladies' athletes who have excelled over the hurdles. There was Wendy Jeal, who took silver behind Gunnell's gold in the 1986 Commonwealth sprint hurdles, Gladys Taylor, Jean Desforges and Edie Peacock. And, of course, there was Sally Gunnell, the most successful British female athlete in history.

Brenda Wilmot, who has been associated with Essex Ladies as an athlete and volunteer for more than 40 years, has a clear memory of the impact that the 11-year-old Pratt made on the club when she began training there - and it was not huge.



Back on track: Julie Pratt puts in a hard training session at Braintree (above) and proudly displays her world junior championship winner's medal (left) Peter Joy

"She was a tot of a thing," Wilmot said. "She did not have the brilliant star quality that one or two of the other girls had, but she beavered away."

"When you have enormous natural talent, the temptation is just to get by on talent. Many of the very promising girls fell by the wayside because they couldn't work hard. But Julie is a very determined character who keeps her eyes fixed on the target."

"She has got the sort of tenacity that Sally had. There are definitely similarities between the two."

The lot, grown now to 5ft 6in, accepts that self-discipline is one of her strongest assets. The Chelmsford-based athlete only meets up with her coach, Ian Grant, at weekends when he travels from his home in Swindon to oversee her technical work. For the rest of the week Pratt is reliant on herself.

"I have to follow Ian's training schedules and make sure I

do all the work properly," she said. "That takes a certain level of discipline." She also gives credit to her first coach, Les Corder, for being careful to bring her along gradually, limiting her outings to races against those of her own age.

"A lot of other girls in my age group were racing regularly against older competitors, which was tiring and sometimes demoralising."

As you might expect, Gunnell has been a source of inspiration

and encouragement to the young clubmate who followed in her steps. In 1995, when Gunnell was Olympic, world, European and Commonwealth 400m hurdles champion - world record holder, too - she took a group of 10 promising young athletes, of whom Pratt was one, for a training trip in Portugal.

"She told us all to believe in ourselves," Pratt said. "She said if we could do that we could make it all the way. She's a very down-to-earth person, and when she came along and started winning everything it made all the British women in athletics realise that they could mix it with everyone and show the rest of the world what they could do."

Pratt's hopes of showing the world her full potential will be enhanced in 1999 by the second European under-23 championships, to be held in Gothenburg, where she will attempt to consolidate her success.

Although Pratt intends to contest the senior world championship trials, she is looking beyond 1999 to the 2000 Olympics as a more realistic focus for senior achievement.

Pratt's victory in France earned her the title of junior female athlete of the year from Britain's athletics writers. It would be nice to think she could figure again in the near future when the time comes to assess the best of British talent.

Kosir's conquest of home peak

JURE KOSIR of Slovenia fulfilled his childhood dream with a home victory in a World Cup slalom in front of 10,000 fans in Kranjska Gora yesterday.

Kosir, whose only other World Cup win came in Madonna di Campiglio in 1994, repelled the challenge of the Austrians to produce a two-run aggregate time of 1min 37.22sec. The man from the nearby town of Mojstana thus became the third Slovenian to win a slalom in Kranjska Gora. Bojan Krizaj managed the feat

in 1982 and 1986 and Rok Petrovic won in 1985.

Kosir, 26, was speechless after the triumph as fans celebrated loudly and carried him on their shoulders through the finish area. "I have been skiing on this slope since I was a kid. I always dreamed of winning here. This is the biggest thing to have happened in my life," he said. "I always imagined skiing through the finish line and winning and what the crowds

would be like and how they would cheer. This is what happened today, and it is like a dream."

The veteran Thomas Stangassinger was second in 1:37.48 ahead of his fellow Austrian Benjamin Raich, a 20-year-old World Cup newcomer who made a staggering improvement on his first run to move up from 16th to third in 1:37.79.

Raich's result was a surprise, as was the fourth place of another young Austrian, the 21-year-old Rainer Schönfelder.

Results, Digest, page 27

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Fax to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sports@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Hit our batsmen in the pocket

Sir: Once again the England batsmen have let us down. What is noticeable about them is that in the domestic game they are no longer run-hungry and so they are not prepared to play long innings at Test level.

When I first watched cricket more than 50 years ago, the Test batsmen usually figured in the top 10 of the season's averages. This was true up to the end of the Boycott era. Now they are so laid back they cannot be bothered to apply themselves (only one batsman appeared in the top 20 last season).

Perhaps it is time to adopt the Ryder Cup selection system. If you are not in the top 10 in the averages, you will not be picked. They would soon start performing to protect their pay packets.

A J HOLLAND
Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Sir: After England's win in the fourth Test there has been a lot of comment on the so-called Barry Army who "support" England. These people are nothing more

than thuggish louts who turn up and chant mindless trash all day, but know nothing about the game. They then go to the pubs and get stoned out of their mind, making life unpleasant for law-abiding citizens. The rubbish that now follows the England cricket team abroad and to some extent at home should be dealt with by the authorities so we can go to cricket again in peace. If cricket does not want to go the same way as football it should get rid of these hooligans.

HOWARD CONWAY
Ilford, Essex

Sir: Surely someone must have noticed that all the countries that have better cricket teams than ours - that is, every other cricketing nation - also have better weather conditions: hot and sunny!

The only place where we get anywhere near to parity is on the green, green, grass of home. Witness the fortunate win last "summer" against the South Africans.

The solution is either to base our team in a place where the weather allows them to play 365 days a year,

or to build English cricket grounds within a controlled weather environment - a sort of Center Parks of cricket!

Dour, inclement weather breeds a dour, under-performing team.

J B SHEAD
Boston, Lincs

Sir: The Independent compiler of cricket scorecards for the Ashes Tests was Jo King. If only she were.

TOM SAUL
London

Pontypool fans can you help?

Sir: Pontypool Rugby Football Club has great traditions and history. We hope to create a Pontypool RFC museum in the near future which we believe could be an attraction for visitors to next year's World Cup. If anyone has anything relating to the club - photographs, caps, jerseys, programmes, etc - and wishes to donate or lend them to the club for inclusion in the museum, please contact me. I would also like to hear from families of former players - particularly ex-internationals. You will,

of course, be acknowledged in the museum if you wish. You can contact me at: St Dunstons, Commercial Street, Pontypool, Torfaen, South Wales, NP4 5JE.

R RIDDICK
museum co-ordinator

Sir Elton talks a good game

Sir: How refreshing it was to read the comments by Sir Elton John which were reported in Glenn Moore's article (23 December). With further opportunities, I feel he could have a beneficial influence on the game.

PAUL UNDERWOOD
Harrow

Jonathan is a true champion

Sir: I was disappointed you only gave our new Formula One world powerboat champion, Jonathan Jones, a few lines and ran a full article about Steve Curtis winning a different title for the third time in a Norwegian boat.

Jonathan won his title for the fourth time and should have been given greater credit for his achievement.

CLIVE RICHARDSON
Llandysul, Cardiganshire

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Sheikh's colours may fade out

SHEIKH MOHAMMED'S continued fixation with establishing Godolphin as the premier racing unit in the world may mean that his personal maroon and white silks - for long the sport's dominant colours - may disappear entirely.

Three trainers - Mark Johnston, Barry Hills and Luca Cumani - have been dropped from the roster this season as the number of juveniles sent into training and bearing the maroon and white livery gradually dries up.

Sheikh Mohammed will have 178 two-year-olds in his personal colours this year, spread between John Gosden and Sir Michael Stoute in this country, plus John Oxx in Ireland and André Fabre in France. That figure is down from 246 last year and if the decrease continued at that rate the Sheikh Mohammed colours could be rendered extinct in three seasons.

The Sheikh has become increasingly entranced with Godolphin ever since the experience of wintering horses in his native Dubai before returning them to Europe began seven years ago. He gains particular pleasure from seeing his string on a daily basis in the Emirates and the consequent increased input he has to their training.

By RICHARD EDMONDSON

But as Godolphin has thrived, his personal Darley organisation has appeared little more than a feeder stable for the boys in Royal blue. "Sheikh Mohammed particularly enjoys the Godolphin operation and Darley appears increasingly like a provider of horses for Godolphin," Cumani said yesterday. "The emphasis is more and more Godolphin and less and less Darley, and it may be that one day it will be wound up completely."

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Hi Hedley
(Market Rasen 1.10)
NB: Coppen Jewel
(Market Rasen 3.15)

Cumani has enjoyed great success with the Sheikh, most notably Barthea's victory in the 1994 Breeders' Cup Mile at Churchill Downs. "We have had good horses from him before, for which we are grateful, and we will carry on with what is left, I presume, until they are finished," the trainer added.

"It is sad not to have horses from Sheikh Mohammed but one understands why. I don't believe it is for any hidden reason

or any particular dissatisfaction."

The irritation which Sheikh Mohammed is probably more likely to feel concerns the prize money in Britain. His words and movements have been monitored far more closely since the Gimcrack speech at York just over a year ago, when he warned that the Maktoums would "massively reduce" their racing interests within these shores unless the sport's finances were improved.

Those at Godolphin have always stressed that the whole operation, which is currently based each summer in Newmarket, could easily be re-planted elsewhere. Possible evidence of intent comes this season when around 100 Godolphin two-year-olds will be trained by David Loder at Ebury racecourse in France.

Godolphin's attempts to plunder the most lucrative prizes around the globe will continue, including Britain as long as the price is right. "As long as we have the best racing, that ambience and healthy competition Sheikh Mohammed will always race here because he is that type of man," Cumani said.

Although Mark Johnston will be receiving no Sheikh Mo-

ammed horses this season, he will actually train more animals for Dubai's ruling family, thanks largely to the contribution of Sheikh Maktoum, the eldest of the four brothers, and his Gainsborough Stud.

"From an industry point of view the only message we should take from all this is for those people who suggested Sheikh Mohammed couldn't move his horses from Britain," the Middleham trainer said yesterday.

"The message is loud and clear: he can do exactly what he wants. He is quite capable and organised enough to move them anywhere he likes."

"I wouldn't say he was doing it [the allocation of juveniles] with the intention of giving a warning to the industry, but we shouldn't ever tell ourselves that owners like Sheikh Mohammed couldn't move their horses. We should always be aware of the fact that he has got that choice and he has exercised it to some extent by sending some to France."

"We have seen him move 100 to France and he could move more if he chooses to. We have got to try to keep him happy in Britain and make sure he continues to enjoy it here."



Mark Johnston (right) will have no juveniles sent to him this year by Sheikh Mohammed, whose silks are sported above by Jason Weaver

Maguire steps up for Holly

ADRIAN MAGUIRE, whose fortunes have turned skywards ever since he resigned as David Nicholson's stable jockey last week, has been booked to replace Andrew Thornton aboard French Holly in the AIG Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown on 24 January. Thornton, who has an infection in his left leg, yesterday conceded that he will not be fit for the race in which French Holly will encounter the Champion Hurdle, Istabraq, for the first time.

"It is very unfortunate [for Thornton] but I am absolutely delighted," Maguire said. "He is a very good horse and anyone would be delighted to ride him. I haven't ridden the horse before but he has won some very good races and beaten some very good horses. I am very impressed with him."

"I don't see the two miles being a problem," Maguire added. "I have seen him win a few times and have been very impressed."

"Istabraq was very impressive when winning the Champion Hurdle last year but some people say that French Holly may be the horse to go and beat him - I'm looking forward to it."

Malta loses standing in Gold Cup market

CYPRUS MALTA has been eased in Cheltenham Gold Cup betting in the wake of the news that he is also to be entered for the Champion Chase and that the two-mile event may be his Festival target. The Martin Pipe-trained gelding is now 10-1 from 8-1 with William Hill, who has shortened Florida Pearl to 4-1 from 9-2.

Fans of Venetia Williams, who trains the Gold Cup favourite, Teton Mill, have taken the 33-1 about her Stretzear, a Group-race winner on the Flat, for the Champion Hurdle and he is in to 20-1 with Hills.

Double Thriller, the former hunter-chaser who is the last horse to have beaten Teton Mill and is now in the care of Paul Nicholls, was yesterday well backed with Coral for the Gold Cup. They have cut him to 33-1 from 50-1 and report sig-

nificant sums for three runners. Impulsive Dream, Slaney Native and Mykon Gold in Saturday's Ladbrokes Hurdle at Leopardstown.

They have trimmed Impulsive Dream to 10-1 from 11-1, Slaney Native to 12-1 from 14-1, and Mykon Gold to 14-1 from 16-1.

FIRST SHOW

Market Rasen 2.10	C	H	S	T
Handicap	21	52	51	58
Black Bull	114	114	114	114
Wendy	61	51	52	52
Debit Head	61	52	51	61
Key Club	61	51	51	61
Red And Blue	61	51	51	61
Starline Special	61	51	51	61
Midnight	61	51	51	61

Each-way 1/5th the odds, places 1/3, 3/4, 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/16, 1/32, 1/64, 1/128, 1/256, 1/512, 1/1024, 1/2048, 1/4096, 1/8192, 1/16384, 1/32768, 1/65536, 1/131072, 1/262144, 1/524288, 1/1048576, 1/2097152, 1/4194304, 1/8388608, 1/16777216, 1/33554432, 1/67108864, 1/134217728, 1/268435456, 1/536870912, 1/1073741824, 1/2147483648, 1/4294967296, 1/8589934592, 1/17179869184, 1/34359738368, 1/68719476736, 1/137438953472, 1/274877906944, 1/549755813888, 1/1099511627776, 1/2199023255552, 1/4398046511104, 1/8796093022208, 1/17592186044416, 1/35184372088832, 1/70368744177664, 1/140737488355328, 1/281474976710656, 1/562949953421312, 1/1125899906842624, 1/2251799813685248, 1/4503599627370496, 1/9007199254740992, 1/18014398509481984, 1/36028797018963968, 1/72057594037927936, 1/144115188075855872, 1/288230376151711744, 1/576460752303423488, 1/1152921504606846976, 1/2305843009213693952, 1/4611686018427387904, 1/9223372036854775808, 1/18446744073709551616, 1/36893488147419103232, 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Football: More substance than style? Certainly the much-travelled manager has an elevated judgement of his self-worth

Atkinson poised for next big offer

BY GUY HODGSON

IF ONE thing struck no one as a surprise in the PR disaster that has been Nottingham Forest this week it was the whereabouts of their proposed new manager. Big Ron? Bar-bados. Where else would he be?

Ron Atkinson is nothing if not stylish. Flash he might be. A little too quick with the one-liner to be unquestioningly trusted, possibly. But you cannot knock the man's polish. So when Forest came knocking on Tuesday his reaction was that he was on holiday (celebrating his wife's 50th birthday) and that he would talk when he came back. That is a fine judgement of one's self-worth.

It is also a characteristic of Atkinson's 28-year managerial career. He has found just about every reason there is to leave clubs, but even when he has been sacked his confidence appears to have remained intact. It might have been an act, but to the public Champagne Charlie was alive and well, just waiting for the next big offer to come along. And, as this week proves, it surely will.

It is a lifestyle that is a far cry from Atkinson the player, who was about as removed from the shiny Big Ron image as you could get. He was big all right - his nickname was "The Tank" - but to describe him as exotic would be wrong. He was a straight-forward, no nonsense defender and midfielder who would probably collect more yellow than Christmas cards if he played today.

Like Howard Wilkinson and Jim Smith, whose playing careers were similarly eclipsed when they went into management, Atkinson began coaching at non-League clubs and only became noticed on a wider scale when he guided Cambridge United from the Fourth to the Second Division in successive seasons.

West Bromwich Albion employed him next and with limited resources he created the finest Baggies team since the 1950s, finishing third in the First Division in 1979. It was not the results that beguiled, however, but the way the team played. Bryan Robson, Laurie Cunningham, Cyrille Regis - Albion were a blend of graft and flamboyance whose finest moment came in December 1980 when they slaughtered Manchester United 5-3 at Old Trafford, and even the home crowd applauded them off.

That day was remembered, and when United wanted a higher-profile manager than the diligent but un-



Ron of good luck: Ron Atkinson seems set to accept a lucrative offer from Nottingham Forest after his eight-month managerial lay-off

Empics

dynamic Dave Sexton it was Atkinson they turned to. In many ways it was a happy marriage. Atkinson provided Old Trafford with its quick-quip figurehead and no one could describe his five-year tenure as a failure. The FA Cup was won in 1983 and 1985, and United never finished outside the top four in the First Division. But they were desperate for the championship and when the Holy Grail never came, he was sacked.

Results was the reason given at the time - United were second from bottom when Alex Ferguson came in November 1986 - but Atkinson had compiled a team heavy on experience but with a short shelf-life, and the youth system was neglected to the point of crisis. The facade at Old Trafford was fine, but the substance was suspect, a description that critics might apply to Big Ron himself.

Since United, Atkinson has travelled with varying success. He won the League Cup with Aston Villa and Sheffield Wednesday, but there is a sense of decline. He was moved upstairs at Coventry City and brought in for a temporary repair job at Hillsborough last season.

Wednesday had nine points from 13 games when Atkinson took over and although he resuscitated them to 18th place his contract was not renewed last May. It is the only occasion that he appeared genuinely shocked by the fickleness of football. "I have been left numb with betrayal," he wrote in *The Sun*. "Let down sadly and savagely by weak men I believe should have been stronger. Rarely have I felt more disappointed - no, worse than that, absolutely disgusted - by the pin-stripes in the boardroom."

Atkinson has since concentrated on media work, commenting for ITV on the World Cup and the Champions' League. His bon mots have legendary status, but for all his problems with English only a curmudgeon would deny him his place among the best football experts. Rich enough not to need to work again, Atkinson, 59, has hankered for management since May. "People might think I'm barney," he said recently, "but I miss the life. I love pitting my wits against the best, the Uniteds, Arsenals and Liverpools. I enjoy being involved."

43 YEARS IN FOOTBALL
1939: Born Liverpool, 18 March.
1956-62: Joins Aston Villa as an apprentice. Fails to make a first-team appearance.
1962-68: Moves to Oxford United. Makes 382 appearances, scoring 12 goals. Shares in their promotion to the Third Division and the championship.
1971-74: Player-manager of Kettering. Resigns.
1974-78: Appointed manager of Cambridge United. Gains promotion in successive years from the Fourth to the Second Division. Resigns.
1978-81: Manager of West Bromwich Albion. In 1978 knocked out of FA Cup semi-finals by eventual winners Ipswich. In 1979 reaches fourth round of UEFA Cup and finishes third in the First Division. Resigns.
1981-86: Appointed manager of Manchester United. FA Cup winners in 1983 and 1985 and never finish below fourth place in the First Division. Is eventually sacked for failing to win the championship.
1987: Returns to manage West Bromwich Albion. Resigns after 11 months.
1988: Manager of Atletico Madrid. Sacked after 96 days and replaced by erstwhile assistant, Colin Addison.
1989-91: Manager of Sheffield Wednesday, but fails to prevent relegation in 1990. Consolation comes in the following season with a 1-0 victory in the Littlewoods Cup against former club Manchester United, and promotion back to the First Division. Resigns in July.
1993-95: Manager of Aston Villa. Manchester United beat Villa into second place in the Premier League in 1993, but are themselves denied the treble by Villa's 3-1 victory in the 1994 Coca-Cola Cup. UEFA Cup triumph over holders Internazionale, but Villa suffer eight defeats in nine League matches. Leaves by mutual consent.
1995-97: Succeeds Phil Neal as manager of Coventry City. Successfully leads annual rescue act. Moves upstairs to allow Gordon Strachan to become manager and then resigns.
1997-98: Manager of Sheffield Wednesday. Avoids relegation for six months. Owls finish 16th in table and contract is not renewed.
1999: Confirms he has been approached by Nottingham Forest to succeed Dave Bassett as manager.

'Women should be in the kitchen, not in football'

AS SAID BY RON

I NEVER comment on referees and I'm not going to break the habit of a lifetime for that. After West Brom's UEFA Cup defeat by Red Star Belgrade, 1979.

You're welcome to my home phone number, gentlemen. But please remember not to ring me during The Sweeney. On being appointed Manchester United manager, 1981.

It's bloody tough being a legend. At United, 1983.

Q: What's the Gidman situation, Ron? Is he in plaster? A: No, he's in Marbella. Press conference exchange at Old Trafford, 1985.

Balloon ball. The percentage game. Route One. It's crept into the top division. We get asked to lend

Phil Shaw on the wit and wisdom of 'Big Ron', the manager never short of a bottle of bubbly or a pithy comment or six

youngsters to these teams but we won't do it. They come back with bad habits, big legs and good eyesight. At the time of Watford's success with the long-ball game, 1984.

Half an hour? You could shoot Ben Hur in half an hour. You've got 15 seconds. To a photographer who asked for 30 minutes, 1984.

I've had to swap my Merc for a BMW. I'm down to my last 37 suits and I'm drinking non-vintage champagne. On life after the sack by United, 1987.

I believe there are only a select few managers who can handle the real giants of this world. I happen to be one of them. At Atletico Madrid, a month before his dismissal, 1988.

These Iraqis don't take any prisoners. Summarising for ITV at the World Cup finals, 1988.

Blimey, you're the first bird I've met with an FA coaching badge. To a female journalist who asked about Sheffield Wednesday's long-ball game under his predecessor, 1989.

Women should be in the discotheque, the boutique and the kitchen, but not in football. As Wednesday manager, 1989.

I always make sure I write Atkinson, D on the team sheet. Sometimes I wonder if I'm making a mistake. On his namesake Dalian's enigmatic form at Aston Villa, 1993.

The criterion I've always used to

judge my teams is: do I enjoy watching them? Enjoying Wednesday's renaissance, 1990.

I just bumped into Cyrille Regis and I said: "What's all this crap about you finding God? You worked with him at West Brom for four years." After a match at Coventry, 1990.

We had a full, serious and constructive discussion at half-time - then decided to give it the full bollocks. After Villa hit back to win, 1993.

At least we were consistent - useless in defence, mediocre in midfield and crap up front. After a Villa defeat at Coventry, 1992.

The only way I'd be interested in the England job is as player-

manager. The eternal five-a-side player, 1994.

Just think - Barbara Streisand and Ron Atkinson at Wembley in the same year. Win, lose or draw it's got to be a great season. Preparing Villa for the Coca-Cola Cup final, 1994.

There are one or two players about who'd like it renamed the Vodka and Coca-Cola Cup. Before the final, 1994.

The highlight of my World Cup was bumping into Frank Sinatra at the Friday night concert in LA. I turned the corner with Gary Newbon and there he was with Bob Hope. After USA 94.

My missus reckons that if people don't recognise me in the street, I go back and tell them who I am. After becoming Coventry manager, 1995.

Rarely in my life have I felt more

disappointed - no, worse than that, absolutely disgusted - by the pin-stripes in the boardroom who have sold me out. "Numb with betrayal" after sacking by Wednesday, 1998.

ABOUT RON

AS FAR as he's concerned, he's God. There's nobody big enough to tell him what to do. MARGARET ATKINSON, first wife, after news broke of an extra-marital affair, 1984.

This person suffers a lot from erotic fantasies. He thinks a lot about sex, though he is devoted to his mother. GRAPHOLOGIST commissioned by ITV to analyse Atkinson's writing before FA Cup final, 1985.

I've already paid him £250,000 in compensation. Now he wants £50,000 more. He thinks my name is

Onassis. JESUS GIL, Atletico Madrid president, 1989.

The only relaxed boss in Big Ron. He had me drinking pink champagne - before a match. HARRY REDKNAPP, West Ham manager, 1995.

They call him Big Fat Ron because he's a big spender on transfers. I just call him Fat Ron. MALCOLM ALLISON, 1993.

Ron is one of the top three managers in the country. DOUG ELLIS, Villa chairman, three weeks before sacking him, 1994.

Ron is the last of the great character managers, who can run a club on their personality and knowledge. I try to tell people here that they have a bonus by playing under him, because his like will not be seen again. GORDON STRACHAN shortly before succeeding him at Coventry, 1996.

New colours of Villeneuve put into spotlight

EXTRAVAGANT LAUNCHES, lofty ambitions, noise, colour and controversy: It can mean only that Formula One is back on the road.

Two months before the start of another world championship, grand prix racing's newest team set the pace by unveiling their cars yesterday and, true to this sport-come-business, steered straight into a confrontation with the governing body.

British American Racing, the team that has risen from the ashes of Tyrrell, introduced their drivers, the 1997 world champion, Jacques Villeneuve, and the GT champion, Ricardo Zonta, with their machinery at the factory in Brackley, barely the distance of a lap from Silverstone.

Canadian Villeneuve, who left Williams to join the adventure led by his former manager, Craig Pollock, appeared in red and white overall, matching the livery of his car. Zonta, of Brazil, wore the blue of his car.

Pollock is challenging the rules, which insists a team's cars must be in the same livery, and the case goes to arbitration today. British American Tobacco, which entered into the

MOTOR RACING

BY DERICK ALLSOP

deal to fund Pollock's mission, want to promote two of their brands and took the opportunity to give visual effect to their campaign yesterday.

Pollock said: "We're going into arbitration. We've done this to protect our commercial rights. I hope we'll get a decision tomorrow although we may have to wait."

The BAT commitment is said to be worth £250m over five years. Pollock has a workforce of more than 200 in what he describes as "the largest and most modern factory in Formula One". His goal, he announced, was to have the most professional team in the pit lanes.

A huge chunk of the funding has been used to lure Villeneuve. Estimates of his salary range from \$5.5m to £10m a year, plus a stake in the company.

Successful racing car maker Adrian Reynard is the technical director and Renault Engines complete the package. Reynard has won his debut race in every other



Jacques Villeneuve (red and white) and Ricardo Zonta (blue) with the British American Racing grand prix cars they will drive, at yesterday's launch

Empics

category and has gone on record as declaring his intention to maintain the sequence. He and the rest of the camp played down that specific target yesterday, but the mood was still suitably buoyant.

Villeneuve contends he has found a new lease of life at BAR. "I did three years at Williams and I thought now was the right time to move," he said. "It was not a case of getting fed up at Williams or losing respect. In fact, we made a lot of progress last year and it was good. So nobody is shooting bullets."

"But this is like a breath of fresh

air, and that's not easy to find in Formula One. Usually it's about evolution, it's difficult to get new ideas. Here it's all new, a new team taking the responsibility to make decisions."

This is not, however, change for the sake of change, he stresses. The racer in Villeneuve demands more than that. "The only reason to go racing is to win, to go better, every time, every lap. The team have the same vision. I didn't come here to pretend. I wouldn't be here if I didn't believe we could be competitive and win. We've got the team,

the technology and have set very high goals."

Villeneuve was hugely impressed with his performance in the car's first test, at Barcelona last month. "We only did a few laps but they were good laps," he said. "I could tell straight away the car was fast as soon as I went out onto the circuit."

Pollock admitted he also had his anxieties in Spain. "Jacques got up to 300kph and pieces started coming off the car. I was in a state of panic. I thought he was going to hit me. Instead he just smiled and said she was like a fast lady."

Villeneuve took up the story: "She must have liked me. After 25 laps she gave in and threw everything off."

The testing will become more intense over the coming weeks and all concerned will be content for the fast lady to keep everything on from now on. Even if instant victory is highly improbable. Villeneuve aspires to a piece of the main event when the championship begins in Melbourne on 7 March.

"We're looking to be up there," he said. "McLaren and Ferrari will be competitive again for sure. McLaren had the advantage last year and they

should keep it. Ferrari, though, have been working very hard. Williams will probably be better also."

Pollock ought to have no illusions about the scale of the test they are encountering. He has seen other teams come and go in recent years. Jordan, a rare success story, achieved a maiden grand prix win last season, their eighth in Formula One.

Undaunted, Pollock said: "What Jacques says is correct - if you're going out to pretend, you shouldn't go out. If he believes we can aim for a win then so we should. It is our job to keep the car around him."



SPORT

CHAMPION'S NEW CHALLENGE P22 • BIG RON, TROUBLESHOOTER P26

Fowler rejects £35,000 a week

ROBBIE FOWLER has turned down Liverpool's offer of a contract worth the equivalent of £35,000 a week. His refusal to agree to the deal will alert Arsenal and Blackburn Rovers, who are both keen to sign the England international striker.

The offer to Fowler starts at around £1.8m a year, making him the best-paid player at Liverpool. Fowler, who has 18 months of his present contract left, has so far refused to accept those terms.

Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, wants Fowler to stay at the club despite doubts about whether he is the ideal

FOOTBALL
BY ALAN NIXON

partner for Michael Owen. However, the Anfield board wants to know whether Fowler is willing to commit himself to Liverpool in the long term, or is planning to let his contract run out and leave for nothing.

If Fowler continues to reject the latest Liverpool offer, which appears to be final, then he could be sold before the transfer deadline in March. Arsenal are watching developments, while the Blackburn manager, Brian Kidd, is a known admirer of Fowler, despite having five

top-line strikers already.

The snag for rival bidders is the cost of the deal. Liverpool would want at least £10m, and the buyers would then have to satisfy Fowler's wage demands. Arsenal could meet those wages as they pay large contracts, but the Blackburn owner, Jack Walker, has a £1m-a-year pay ceiling.

Houllier has said that his former co-manager, Roy Evans, would be welcome to return to Anfield if he wants to. The Frenchman, who took sole control in November after Evans' emotional departure from the

club, said: "If he wants to return and have some work, be it in the scouting or recruiting of top players, then I would be very happy because I enjoyed working with Roy. A job here does not just involve the first team. There is also the Academy."

Overseeing Liverpool's youth development was one of the posts suggested to Evans before he left, but it was believed he did not want to return to the background at the club. He has not returned to Anfield to watch a game since his departure.

Houllier added: "It would be good if Roy could find another

job in management and I think he can. But I mean this, I would like to see him back at this club at some stage."

Liverpool have completed the transfer of the Lillestrom defender, Frode Kippe. The fee for the 19-year-old Norwegian Under-21 international is believed to be around £700,000, which could rise to £2m depending on appearances.

Liverpool have also confirmed their interest in Bayer Leverkusen's Dutch striker, Erik Meijer. He is out of contract with the German side at the end of the season - but Leverkusen could be set to sell now

rather than miss out on a fee under the Bosman ruling.

Alex Ferguson has denied using psychological warfare in a quest to knock Arsenal's championship challenge off the rails. The Manchester United manager has revealed he has sent a letter to the Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, apologising for private remarks about Arsenal becoming public.

Ferguson said his comments that Arsenal were "scrappers" were made privately - but he stopped short of apologising for the comments themselves.

Ferguson said: "Arsène Wenger has a right to be annoyed over this matter. I have already dropped him a note explaining the situation, and I offered him the apology he deserved."

"It is not my policy to criticise other teams and the way they play. The last thing we want is to have big clubs like ours in this sort of confrontation. People go on about it all being psychological warfare, but that is far from the truth on this occasion."

Coventry City have completed the signing of the Danish goalkeeper Morten Hyldgaard - but he will not link up with the Sky Blues until next

season. The 6ft 5in Hyldgaard has completed his initial £200,000 transfer, a fee which could eventually double depending on the number of first-team appearances he makes. The 20-year-old will complete the season with his Danish club, Ikast, before reporting to Highfield Road in July.

Leeds United are set to sign the left-sided midfielder Willem Korsten from the Dutch club Vitesse Arnhem until the end of the season.

Ipswich Town have paid £200,000 to another Dutch club, De Graafschap, for the 28-year-old wing back, Fabian Wijn.

Uefa attacks Blatter's plan

A BIENNIAL World Cup would damage football and the public would abandon the game, European football's governing body said yesterday.

"A biennial World Cup, in the current situation, would be disastrous for the basic components of soccer - players, clubs and domestic leagues," Gerhard Aigner, the general secretary of Uefa, said. "The European Championship would risk being devalued and maybe destroyed. That would damage Uefa which, on technical, organisational and financial levels, is the motor of world soccer. I fear that the biggest loser in all of this would be the spectator, our true 'sponsor' who Fifa [world football's governing body] seems to be overlooking. The public could all of a sudden abandon soccer."

Aigner's comments came on the same day that Sepp Blatter, Fifa's president and the man who proposed last weekend that a World Cup should be staged every two years instead of four, emphasised his determination to see his proposal become reality. "This idea is not a toy," said Blatter, after a meeting with the International Olympic Committee president, Juan Antonio Samaranch.

"If we go to a [cycle] of two years we will not play the same years as the summer Olympic Games," Blatter added, addressing the issue of the World Cup coming into conflict

BY NICK HARRIS

with the summer Olympics, which are held every four years.

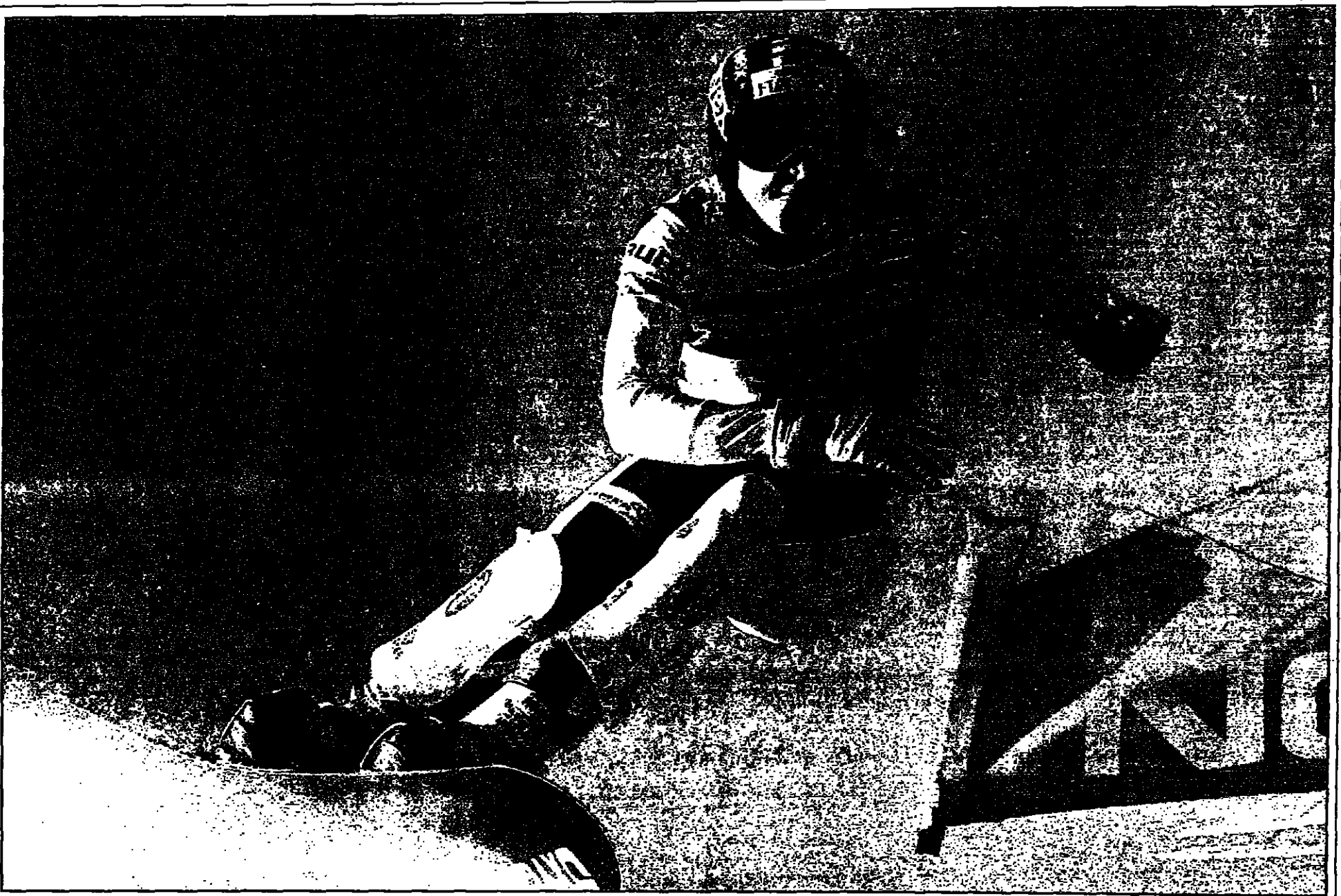
The next Games are in Sydney in 2000, followed by Athens in 2004. The next World Cup will be in 2002 in Japan and South Korea and the bidding process for the 2006 finals is underway. Blatter insisted that, with or without a World Cup every two years, work is needed on a "streamlined" international calendar to avoid "chaos" in sporting fixtures.

"One can start changing the calendar from 2005 on," he said, but did not elaborate further on his plans to stage a scaled down World Cup in 2004 to celebrate Fifa's centenary.

Blatter's plans came in for fresh criticism yesterday. Michel D'Hooghe, president of the Belgian FA, said the plans were "hardly possible to realise" and "unreasonable" because of the physical demands they would make on players. He added: "As a doctor, I can only strongly reject these plans."

Germany's national team doctor, Professor Wilfried Kindermann, said: "It is almost impossible to play a full season year after year and play in a World Cup or European Championship afterwards."

Blatter will meet with Uefa representatives, including Aigner, and the secretary generals of the other five football confederations to discuss the project on 15 January.



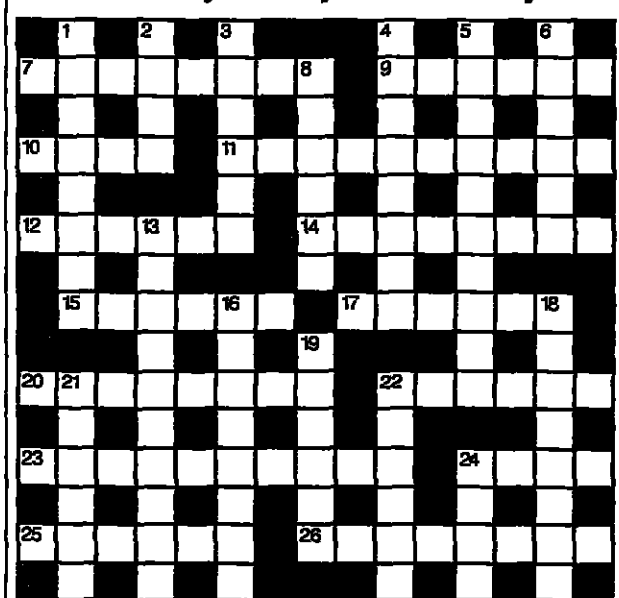
Manuela Riegler, of Austria, leans into a curve on her way to winning the snowboard World Cup giant slalom event in Morzine, France, yesterday. Riegler dominated the race to finish well clear of second-placed Carmen Ranigler of Italy. Reuters

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3313 Thursday 7 January

by Mass

Wednesday's solution



DOWN
1 Railway employee in front? (8)
2 Rally pieces on edge of board (4)
3 Dancer showing dash? (6)
4 Very minor waterfall? (8)
5 Air old epic anew, in magazine (10)
6 Leading light in vegetable business? (6)
8 Fashionable boring

- ACROSS
7 Grouse from a male during ineptly played bridge (4)
9 Primates embracing Eastern cross with pointed ends (6)
10 Old part of Carthage, destroyed (4)
11 Bird's loud measure, like a gull at first (10)
12 Arched surface caught driving light (6)
14 Gravelly walk, new frontage for terrace (8)
15 Sleepy, Toledo, with turning year (6)
17 Grains, harvest's penultimate measures (6)
20 A very quiet set of canons (but audibly) praise (8)
22 Fat lot in drag (6)
- 23 Yank turning greener, quaffing British drink (4)
24 Star on English broadcast (4)
25 Stir small cinders (6)
26 Pamphlet, one showing drawing (8)

- character's interrupted (6)
13 Runner - better - go-go and lithe (10)
16 Landowner's stashed away right liberal hoard (8)
18 Sign of rising pro in younger member (8)
19 Heron of broadcast about fuel (6)
21 Tool left among but-tresses (6)
22 Deposit formed by salts (6)
24 Source of mineral, hard substance (4)

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NBA lockout breakthrough

BASKETBALL
BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

WITH JUST hours to spare, negotiators brought the National Basketball Association back from the brink of disaster yesterday, reaching a preliminary agreement that could save what is left of the season. But the deal still had to be agreed by players and owners, and the long drawn out and bitter dispute will leave both sides feeling raw.

Players have lost an estimated half a billion dollars (£320m) in salaries, and owners have had no income. But the fans are likely to feel even worse about a dispute that essentially revolved around how to split \$2bn between some very rich individuals.

On Monday, it looked as if the game was up, in every sense. The NBA and the players' union had failed to break the

deadlock, and it seemed only a procedural vote by the Board of Governors was needed to deliver the coup de grace. But NBA commissioner David Stern and union head Billy Hunter continued talking, with the impending deadline helping to focus minds, and at 6am yesterday the deal was there.

If it receives the seal of approval of owners and players, a truncated season could start in about three to four weeks' time, allowing time for between 45 to 50 games.

Approval is still needed from the owners and the players, and the process of selling the deal is under way. Then deals need to be done with the free agents for the season.

NBA players have arrived in New York for a scheduled vote on whether to support the position of their negotiating committee, which had recommended that the owners' final offer be rejected. At least 200 players had been expected to show up for the vote.

The NBA has \$2bn to share out because of increased revenues from television, and the argument was over how to divide the pie.

Players wanted a larger slice for salaries, saying some players were underpaid; owners said some teams were going under, and they couldn't afford it. The reality is that both are partly right. The owners wanted to tighten salary caps, removing the exemptions that

allow players to earn such vast sums, while the union was resisting. The players also wanted higher rates for players in the middle and at the bottom end of the salary scale.

The fight was egged on by the super-agents who dominate professional sports, and made even more bitter by the fact that 80 per cent of players are black, and all the owners are white. The average salary is about \$2.5m though fewer than half make more than that, reflecting the fact that there are some very big pay packets out there which help to distort the figures.

Pre-eminent amongst them, of course, is the Michael Jordan economy: the Chicago Bulls star earns \$33.14m (£54m) a season, and the Bulls' payroll tops \$60m. Jordan has not said

whether or not he will return to the Bulls this season, though he had promised not to play if coach Phil Jackson left - and Jackson has gone.

One side-effect of the end of the lockout will be to clarify what happens to Jordan and the Bulls, perhaps the greatest basketball team ever.

The lockout, in effect since 1 July, has caused the NBA to miss games because of a labour dispute for the first time in its history. Under American labour law, without a contract - or in this case a collective bargaining agreement CBA - owners can lock out players from working until a deal is reached. "I wouldn't blame the fans if they didn't come back," said Jeff Hornacek of the Utah Jazz. "Neither side is coming out of this thing looking good."

SA boss denies racial quotas claim

RUGBY UNION

THE HEAD of the South African Rugby Football Union has denied a newspaper report that racial quotas would be used for players in the nation's premier domestic tournament.

The Star, a Johannesburg newspaper, reported on its front page yesterday that the Sarsu president, Sibusiso Nkomo, said a racial quota system would be extended to the Currie Cup. The system is currently used in youth and provincial rugby leagues.

However, Nkomo said he was incorrectly quoted. "Such a decision would have to be discussed at length by the Sarsu

executive committee and with the provinces before it could take effect," he added.

The African National Congress has said that cricket and rugby teams, which often field all-white sides against international opponents, are not trying hard enough to promote players of other races. On Sunday, the United Cricket Board of South Africa's president, Ray White, reaffirmed the UCB's commitment to the development of non-white players.

Last year, the UCB promised to develop a pool of non-

white players as a source for players on provincial squads.

On the domestic rugby stage, the stand-off David Humphreys has won his fitness battle and will captain Ulster in their European Cup semi-final against Stade Français at Ravenhill on Saturday. The Irish international suffered a shoulder injury in the quarter-final victory over 1996 European champions Toulouse on 11 December.

"Initially I was a bit worried about being fit, but I am fine now and have taken increased contact during the week," said Humphreys. "One of the key

factors in our cup run this season has been our team spirit and that will be crucial against Stade Français."

But while Humphreys is confirmed as a starter, Ulster coach Harry Williams will delay announcing the team until the 11th hour as he awaits fitness reports on a number of players, including centre Mark McCall, who has been out for 18 weeks with a neck problem.

"For technical reasons we are only naming a squad of 22 at this stage but Humphreys will be captain," said Williams. "Stade Français don't have a weakness and are very strong up

front. This is a notch up in competition for us and an even bigger challenge than the Toulouse quarter-final."

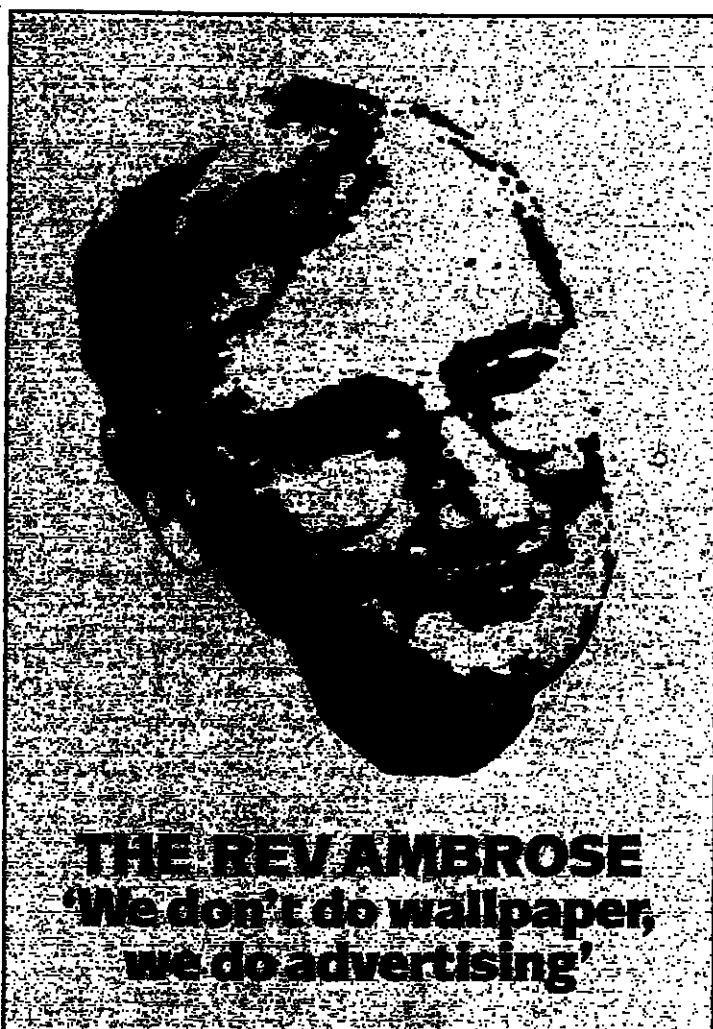
The promising London Scottish stand-off Barry Irving has been drafted back into the Scotland Under-21 squad for an extra match in the colts' build-up to their Five Nations' campaign.

The 19-year-old has been added to the squad along with Watsonians centre Marcus Di Rollo and the Northampton hooker Will Jones for an additional fixture against Newcastle Under-21s at Prestonians on 11 January.

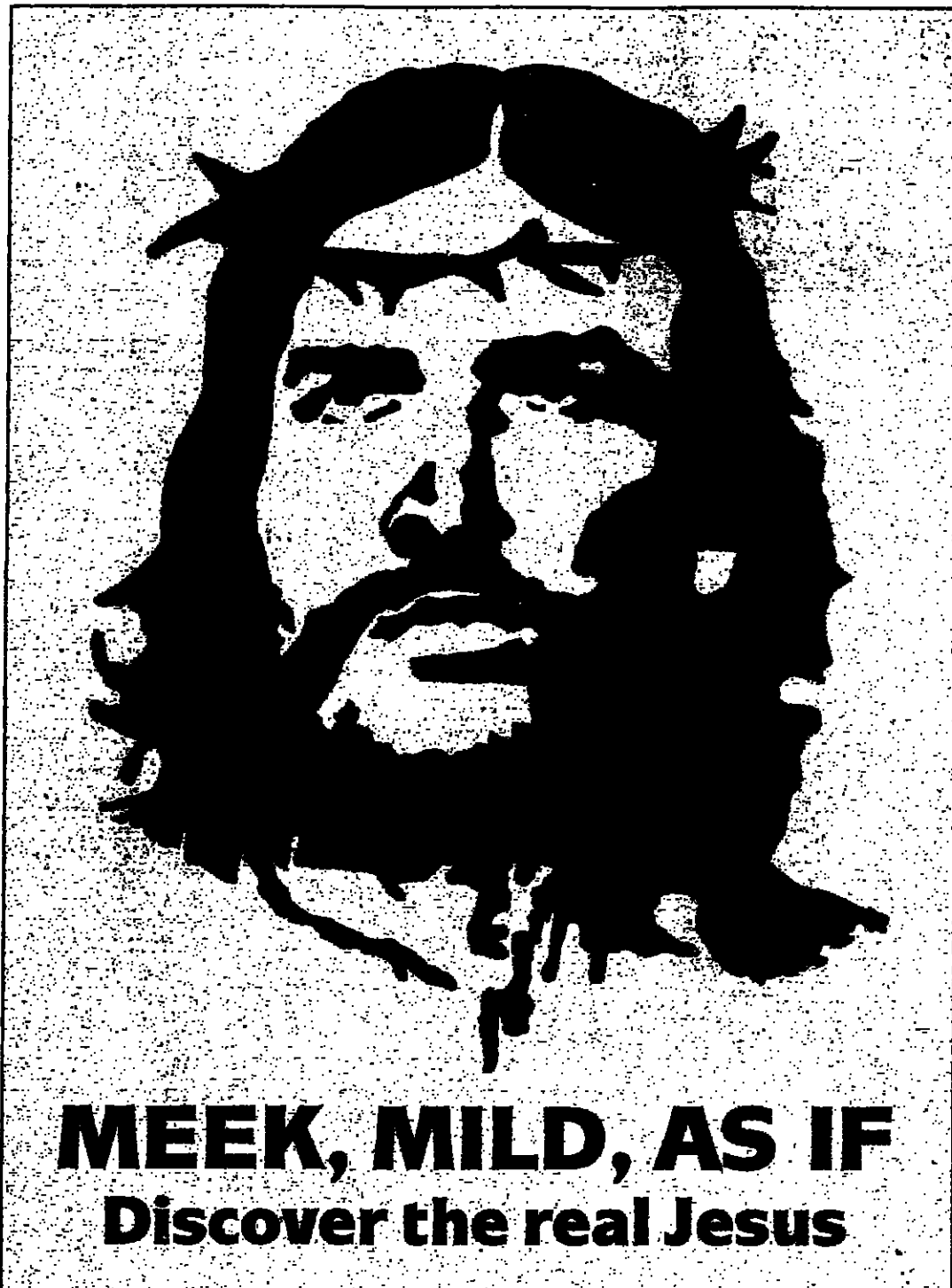
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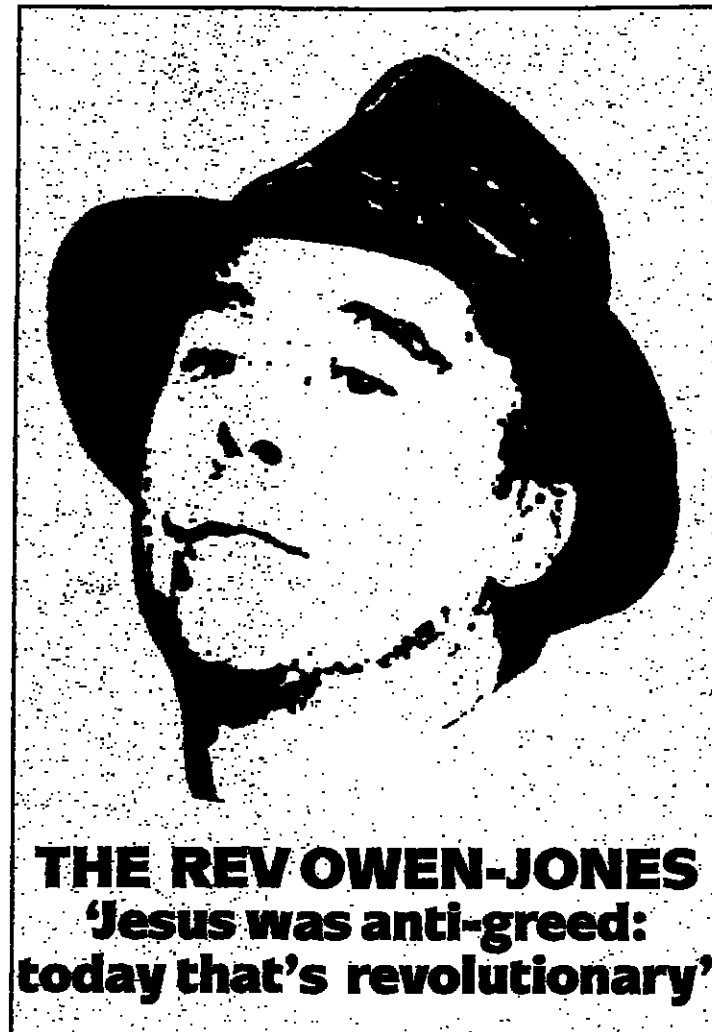
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THE REV AMBROSE
'We don't do wallpaper,
we do advertising'



MEEK, MILD, AS IF
Discover the real Jesus



THE REV OWEN-JONES
'Jesus was anti-greed:
today that's revolutionary'

The reverend revolutionaries

They believe in the power of the word. And the word is advertising.
Meet the men of cloth who want to convince you that the Son of Man is no 'wimp'

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. So said John. You know, the apostle who could really write. All of that was a few years ago, and these days he might need to update that sentence. In the beginning was the Brief and the Brief was with God and the Brief was God. It's the kind of thing that might resonate with the Churches Advertising Network, that band of misunderstood Christians who decided a few months ago that the brief for this spring's advertising campaign should be The Real Jesus. You know, the revolutionary who died on the cross. No, not the guy wearing a disco ball for a dress, who is always surrounded by lambs and chicks. The guy with the crown of thorns. The guy who, in fact, looks remarkably like Che Guevara. You know, the Argentinian atheist and T-shirt icon.

The advertising campaign showing Jesus looking awfully like Che was launched this week. The red-and-black poster pictures the Son of God looking off into the distance, as revolutionaries in berets often do, with a slogan underneath that says "Meek. Mild. As If. Discover the real Jesus." The traditionalists are appalled. It is blasphemy, Che and Jesus! Really. The Bishop of Wakefield feared the adverts would "trivialise the mystery of the godhead". He added: "I am not sure it is the proper way of presenting the message of love and peace." The Bishop of St Albans, the Right Rev Christopher Herbert, said that young people might think that "As If" was a pop group. "The image is very Sixties," he said. "I cannot see how it will appeal to younger generations."

I ask a member of the Churches Advertising Network, the Rev Peter Owen-Jones, whether he thinks that young people might think that As If is a pop group, and it is his turn for a little outrage. "That demonstrates the problem rather than solves it. And you can quote me on that." Before he became a vicar in Haslingfield, Cambridge, three years ago, Rev Owen-Jones was an advertising copywriter, but he didn't anticipate that this campaign would be called blasphemous. He thinks the reality of church life does have a hard edge. It is not all white lambs and blue-eyed children. He says that the problem is that although the churches are part of the Establishment now, their founder simply was not. So there is bound to be tension between the two, even now. "It is uncomfortable for them," he says.

He blames the Victorians. They are the ones who created the sepia portrait we all have of Jesus, happy and smiling in dress and halo. This is Christ, our Saviour of the Comfy Slippers mentality. It is an extremely nice image but also, perhaps, rather ineffectual. And not that far from the way many people perceive

the Church itself these days. The reality is far different. "As a vicar you deal with tragedy and the apparent senselessness of it all," says Rev Owen-Jones. "You deal with drug addiction and alcoholism and self-interest in the extreme. You deal with selfishness and greed. These are all things that every vicar would have to comfort and deal with in other people, as well as look at our own personal failings."

Meek and mild. As if. Rev Owen-Jones thinks that hard-edged and gritty is more like it. And revolutionary. "This campaign really is an honest attempt to try to deal with a part of the story which will not be unfamiliar to people who actually read the Bible. Jesus was anti-materialism and anti-greed. This is a revolutionary line, especially in our society today."

Tom Ambrose is a vicar and the director of communications in the Church of England diocese of Ely. He is also a member of the Network. "It's terrible that Christians want the picture of Jesus to be a sort of a wimp!" he says. "Jesus created an absolute rev-

BY ANN TRENEMAN

olution in the lives of the people who wrote the Gospels. That's why they wrote about it. You can read the story of feeding the 5,000 and it is about baskets and bread - or you can read it again and it's 5,000 men hiding away in companies of 50 and 100, drawn up like an army." In the end Jesus fled. He didn't want to be that kind of revolutionary. But that's what the people - those men and Herod et al - thought he was. "That's why he was crucified!"

The members of Churches Advertising Network are bound together by two things: they are Christians (though they belong to different denominations) and they believe in the power of advertising. They are controlled by no one. Every Christmas and Easter they work, with the creative team drawn from Christians in the media, to make a campaign. The members of the Network reject labels such as "modernist" and "radical", but that is what they are. Not particularly because they believe that the real Jesus was a revolutionary, but because they believe in advertising and its power to make people think. "We don't do wallpaper. We do advertising," says Rev Tom Ambrose. "Unless it makes you stop and think twice, then what's it for? Our adverts will be up in the High Street against everyone else's. We want ours to be stronger than that. Maybe we have succeeded."

Robert Ellis, communications director for the Church of England in Lichfield, helped found the network in 1991. I ask whom the Network serves. "There is a huge debate on that one. We exist to serve the Church, which to a large extent has not got a clue

about advertising and marketing and public relations. The gap between the Church and the public is getting larger by the day. This is about closing that gap. It's an uphill struggle." He says that many in the Church do not even know what the scenery is. I don't either, so I ask. He means the scenery of advertising. "For them advertising is a puke-green or fluorescent orange piece of paper written on in felt tip behind a piece of cling film, flapping dejected in the wind." He says that the early Church did have a clue. They had mystery plays and John Wesley and his horse and "dear old St Paul in his boat".

All of this seems very far away from Che in his beret, however. But everyone - the vicars and the creatives - insist that this should not be taken that way. They have used Che as an icon, an image, an idea. Chas Bayfield is a member of Christians in Media and he is one of the "creatives" behind the campaign. He says that the revolutionary idea came quickly and he, for one, thinks it is perfect. He says that there is an image now of Jesus as "a bit of a poof". This is simply not appropriate. "We felt very strongly that Christ is misrepresented terribly. It's almost insulting. I want to be known as a follower of this amazing revolutionary man, not some effeminate fairy in a white dress. I'm a grown man. I can't believe in fairies!"

Nor does he particularly believe in Che Guevara. "I didn't really know much about him. In fact, I didn't even know he was a Communist. But he really is the Trivial Pursuit revolutionary, isn't he? He's the one everyone recognises. I mean, most people couldn't even name too many revolutionaries. If I were to say 'Carlos the Jackal' to you, would you know what he looks like?" I say that, yes, I would. Square face and Michael Caine glasses. I'm not sure about the revolutionary bit, though. Mr Bayfield sighs. "Well, most wouldn't. My old granny wouldn't. Che really is the token revolutionary."

Somehow I don't think Che would agree. Judy Beishon, of the executive committee of the Socialist Party, says that she thinks the campaign is a bit strange. "If anything, it is probably a bit unfair to Che Guevara." But say we agree, just for the moment, that Che is just an icon and that Jesus is the real revolutionary. Does it mean anything deeper, really? The Churches Advertising Network would say yes. Rev Peter Owen-Jones believes there is a quiet revolution going on. The Church is changing. It has to change. "It is absolutely right that it is uncomfortable. It provokes change - and that is what Jesus did. Change is never easy. The Church is not comfortable with this image. It is more comfortable to have this meek, mild person bumbling around taking care of lost cats. But that's not the reality of it at all."

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Down on the farm

Sir: Sean Rickard's article "Why should taxpayers prop up our inefficient farmers?" (5 January) is based on a terrifying misconception.

Farming is not an industry. It is a trust. A farmer's duties go beyond simply providing food; he must also ensure that he leaves the land in good heart for future generations, that his livestock is suitable for further breeding and that the environment is respected so that it will sustain our descendants.

The reclassification of farming as an industry has meant the replacement of these obligations with the simple yardstick of greed. The result has been chicken stocks rife with salmonella, beef herds with BSE and our cereals polluted with chemicals.

No wonder Mr Rickard has defected from the National Farmers' Union to a school of management.
TERRY JONES
London SE5

Sir: Sean Rickard usefully focuses the arguments on reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy on to harsh realities of global pressures and technological change. Many in East Anglia, for example, believe those changes will reshape landscapes as significantly as the shift from wool to grain in previous centuries.

UK producers and consumers should view these processes as opportunities rather than threats, but only if greater competitiveness is matched by bolder thinking about its benefits to the whole community rather than the profitability of the few. Rural workers and small businesses are also customers in local economies; the social and environmental consequences of change cannot be divorced from industrial considerations. That is why a genuinely integrated rural development approach is needed both in the Brussels negotiations and the UK government's rural White Paper this year, with a key component being diversion of "bad" wasteful subsidies into "good" environmental, healthy and nutritional encouragement.

UK producers are keen for that, understandably as long as sustainable incomes are likely. They now need arguments to be won abroad and at home in favour of quality rather than quantity of produce.

CLIVE NEEDLE MEP
(Norfolk, Lab)
Brussels

Sir: Sean Rickard assumes that all society requires from farming is cheap food. He fails to mention that millions of people are deeply concerned about the less tangible products of farming – the quality, diversity and beauty of the countryside. Much of the criticism of the CAP for many years has been the damage it has caused to wildlife and landscape. In a survey conducted in 1996 by the Countryside Commission, 91 per cent thought society had a "moral duty" to protect the countryside.

CPRE is in no way an apologist for the CAP and we believe radical reform is long overdue. The objectives of reform, however, should not be focused on a very narrow definition of competitiveness. A new rural policy for Europe should give greater encouragement to farmers to add value to the farmed environment and help them to market the quality of that local environment in the products they produce. This approach applies as much to small farmers as to larger ones.

The countryside remains a local product that can only be produced by our own farmers. CPRE wants to see those who produce the beauty and diversity of our countryside rewarded by using far more of the current CAP budget to support more sustainable farming. In the long term the quality of the environment will be one of farming's most enduring assets.

ALASTAIR RUTHERFORD
Head of Rural Policy
Council for the Protection of
Rural England
London SW1

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Welsh Portraits No 4: Saundersfoot in Pembrokeshire, west Wales, is a family seaside resort of the traditional kind

Geraint Lewis

Insane ban on guns

Sir: The Institute of Psychiatry is to be commended for publicising the fact that, contrary to tabloid "hoil-in-the-bag" opinion, the mentally ill are most unlikely to commit murder (report, 6 January). Being cited in just 60 homicides a year out of an annual average of 600 to 700, the mentally ill do not deserve to be the subject of a witch-hunt.

What a pity similar standards of objectivity were not applied to an examination of some other Home Office statistics – those relating to gun ownership. While the number of legally owned guns continues its long-term downward trend, the proportion of British homicides committed with guns has remained at about 9 or 10 per cent – the same as the much-vaunted figure for the mentally ill. Furthermore, virtually all the guns used in homicides are not only held illegally, but have never been registered.

If the chances of being murdered by a mentally ill person are very small, then the chance of being killed by the lawful owner of a gun is many, many times smaller still. If the Institute of Psychiatry's findings make the Government pause before instituting new "care in the community" legislation, then how can our law-makers justify their draconian banning of the ownership of handguns by responsible people?

ALASTAIR MITCHELL
Stockfield, Northumberland

Backyard ballast

Sir: For the last few months south Oxford has been living through a nightmare. It could happen elsewhere.

A private company has established an industrial work-site adjacent to our local park and only 200 yards upwind of an open-air swimming pool, houses, a nursery school and a day centre. It is within the City of Oxford and in the Green Belt and does not have planning permission. Across all parties, both city and county councils and Oxford's two MPs have opposed the development, but to no avail. For this is one company that does

not need planning permission. Where we used to sit by our peaceful lake looking across to the countryside, we now have an excavator towering over a ballast heap, 1,000 feet long by 50 feet wide and rapidly growing towards its target height of 15 feet. A throughput of 200,000 tonnes of granite per year will be unloaded from trucks on to the stockpile and then back from pile to trucks.

The drone of the excavator, the crashings of the grab and the scrape of metal on metal cannot be shut out of houses. But this private company is immune from prosecution for noise nuisance.

The company is Railtrack.

which has "permitted development rights" of breathtaking scope.

At present the matter rests with the Secretary of State. He can support the community and its elected representatives and require such a development in a sensitive site to be properly assessed. Or he can suppress the democratic voice.

This is one of 13 "virtual quarries" across the UK and no doubt part of a logistically sound ballast supply scheme. But it should be in an industrial area and not in anyone's backyard.
P JENKINS
Oxford

Revolution betrayed

Sir: Contrary to Peter Cadogan's letter (1 January), there is no reason to celebrate the anniversary of the replacement of one dictatorship by another one three and a half centuries ago.

The changes from the Stuart monarchy to the Presbyterian parliament, to the puritan Rump and the republican Commonwealth, and then to the Cromwellian Protectorate, however exciting for the media of the time, did almost nothing for political democracy, as was pointed out by the Levellers, or for economic democracy, as was pointed out by the Diggers – both of whom are far better candidates for commemoration – and nothing at all for the mass of the people. No wonder most of them welcomed the Restoration of the Stuarts a few years later.

Unfortunately the pattern of revolution against an aristocratic bunch of armed gangsters being betrayed by another religious or bureaucratic, militaristic or racist bunch of armed gangsters was followed in America and France, and later in Mexico and Russia, Spain and Argentina, China and Cuba. What price revolution now? Instead of wasting time on a meaningless anniversary of the first modern revolution, we should try to learn from these examples how it was betrayed and why it became a dirty word.

MARY LEWIS
Freedom Press, London E1

IN BRIEF

Sir: I must respond to a comment made by Michael McCarthy in his article on the Greenwich meridian ("Time line is put on the English map", 31 December), where he states that the meridian "just" misses Louth. For many years there has been within the town of Louth a brass strip inlaid in the pavement marking the meridian's passage through the town, together with a commemorative plaque.

Have we been mistaken all these years?

RICHARD GARBUTT
Louth, Lincolnshire

Sir: My sons all use computers extensively at work. They assure me that many companies have storerooms full of serviceable but slightly outdated computers which are no longer in use. My daughters-in-law are all connected with teaching. They assure me that many schools are desperate for serviceable computers, which need not be of the very latest model but which the school budgets cannot be stretched to purchase.

Would it not be possible to put supply and demand together to the great benefit of everybody?

A J WILLIAMS
Tonbridge, Kent

Fools and their alphabets are copiously parted

YESTERDAY I leant on the kindness of the hundred or more readers who wrote in with memories of the comic alphabet which flourished in the Thirties. (Floods more this morning, so I hope you understand if I don't have the time to answer you all individually.)

I should have known, but didn't, that this alphabet is the basis of a Sebastian Faulks novel called *A Fool's Alphabet* and is in fact given in full (I am told by several readers) on page 42. But many of you reported variations. When we narrowed yesterday we had got to H, and now we come to the letter I which my father said was for Ivor Novello, as indeed Faulks does. But other people think differently.

I, Ivor Emmanuel Ivor Cutler: I for Ivor (high-falutin'). I for an eye. I for a pretty girl.

J, J is just about the only letter on which everyone agrees, apart from X: Jaffa oranges.

K, From the days when "kafir" was a common word, plenty of people remember being told that it was K for kraal, K for farmer, and so on. There was also the odd English pronunciation of "café" as "kafe", hence K for restaurant. The most popular by far was K for answers (Kay Francis, a once famous film actress of whom I had never heard).

L, Most of us prefer L for Leather but there is also L for goblin (elf or goblin), L for Romeo and L for happiness. (How about L for Beta Gamma Delta?)

M, Emphasis or Emphatise is the clear favourite. I was also offered M forever blowing bubbles, which is novel: Emphysema,

which is clever; and M for cream sherry, which is puzzling till you remember Emva was a make of sherry. Or was it Enva? In which case it should be in...

N, Lots here. Information. Envelope. N for eggs. N for cement (enforcement). Enflading. N for a penny: N for no (inferno). I think the leader was the old N for a dig (*infra dig*). I did manage to think of a new one myself here, which was Enver Hoxha, but somebody else thought of that as well. And in his *Comic Alphabets* book, Eric Partridge reveals that the idea was thought of long ago, in Enver Pasha or Enver Bey, the once-famous leader of the Young Turks.

O, O for the wings of a dove. O for a muse of fire. O for a pint. O for a pee. O for the rainbow. O for the garden wall. O for my shoulder. O for



MILES KINGSTON
R for mo, R for Askey,
R for English, R for
bitter. That was it.
No upmarket ones at all

seas. O for board. O for my dead body. O for the sea to Skye. O for coat. R P for relief was the clear win-

ner, ahead of P for the doctor. P for comfort. P for whistle. P for Daddy and P for a penny. The cleverest came from Rosemary Thornton who said that her father taught her P for church because Peover Church near Knutsford in Cheshire is actually pronounced that way.

Q, Amazing what people have queued for in the past. I was given Q for rations, Q for fish and chips, Q for tickets, Q for the 1/9s, Q for bananas, Q for a bus, and – more modern – Q for clubbing. But the commonest was Q for everything. Those who heard it as "cue" gave me Q for billiards and Q for a song.

R, R for mo, R for Askey, R for English, R for bitter. That was it. No upmarket ones at all. No R for Miller, R for Bryant, R for Quiller Couch or even R for sea clerk. S, S for you, S for example were

the most common, but people remembered all the ones commoner than S. S for Williams, S for Ralston, S for Rantzen, S for McCracken (who she?), S for Waters (who she too?) and S for Oforim.

T, Everyone said T for two, except the few who said T for mouf and T for dentures. U, U for me, U for nerve, U for got, U for mison, U for Pendragon. I liked Richard Stamp's U for today (youth of today) and I was glad to learn that U for films refers to a defunct German film company called UFA Films.

V, V for la France, l'amour, Zapata, España and la difference. W, Nobody was very happy with W, but most settled for Double You for a Shilling, or W for a Quid. X, X for breakfast was universally liked.

Useless euro

Sir: Price transparency is widely touted as a principal benefit of the euro to consumers. But are consumers so sensitive to price differentials that they will travel or purchase across borders within Euroland to take advantage of newly revealed lower prices? Hamish McRae thinks so ("The slow burn of the euro", 5 January), and also predicts the same kind of homogeneity in retailing there that we already have "from Inverness to Plymouth".

But in this part of Sterlingland, a supermarket chain consistently maintains a 5-per-cent differential in its filling station prices between branches only 13 miles apart. A single currency does not automatically dispose of oligopolistic price-fixing if producers combine to "regionalise" the single market.
HENRY FINCH
Brintree, Essex

Sir: One of the silliest arguments put forward in favour of the UK adopting the euro is that it will lead to lower interest rates for mortgages and for industry.

The Government has made it clear that there is no prospect of the UK joining the euro until our economy converges with that of continental Europe. Therefore, by the time it is "economically right" for us to join the euro we will have low sterling interest rates anyway.

Clearly, then, there will be no point in adopting the euro to get low interest rates.
JAMES G FLUSS
London NW4

Religion of work

Sir: Cardinal Hume and the Bishop of Liverpool may well be right about overworking at Christmas ("Churchmen attack work on holidays", 2 January). If they are, it is not just Christmas that is the problem; it is a society where work is the new religion. Work has become too dominating in our lives both because of what it means to us and because of what it demands of us.

The irony, from my point of view, is that the church requires its employees to work unsociable hours which the clergy accept as part of our vocation. However, many of the clergy I know overwork, and not just at Christmas, to the detriment of themselves, their family life and their ministry. If we in the church really believe working patterns can be destructive, there is no place like home to begin the now needed revolution in our society to put and enjoy work in its place.

It is well enough for senior clergy to stand up and seek to steer society in the right direction but perhaps their words would be more telling, to the clergy at least, if the same message were being addressed to the church as employer as well.

The Rev DAVID EATON
Leatherhead, Surrey

Ash, Birch, Cedar

Sir: Michael Sharman (letter, 5 January) asks about the origin of alphabetical order. In his book *The White Goddess*, Robert Graves explains that alphabetical order derives from the ancient Celtic alphabet, where letters were named after trees and put into the order in which the trees flowered throughout the year.

Tree names were also used to represent numbers, days of the week, and concepts such as life and death. The yew tree represented death and is still grown in cemeteries.
Mrs CHARMIAN HAYES
Felham, Middlesex

Sir: I Michael Sharman's letter reminded me of a friend of mine who, when at primary school, used to drive his teachers mad by asking "As long as you know what all the letters of the alphabet are, why does it matter what order they are in?"

PAUL LOCKWOOD
Cambridge

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The euro is here, so let's start adjusting our economy to it

THE BANK of England's Monetary Committee is meeting today for the first time since the launch of the euro. This shouldn't necessarily influence the immediate decision to lower interest rates again. The committee may well decide to leave them where they are, at 6.25 per cent. But the coming of the euro is of immense importance to the Bank's deliberations for the future. In business, as in politics, complacency would be the very worst stance to adopt over a development that will have a profound influence on our currency, and interests rates, whether or not we join.

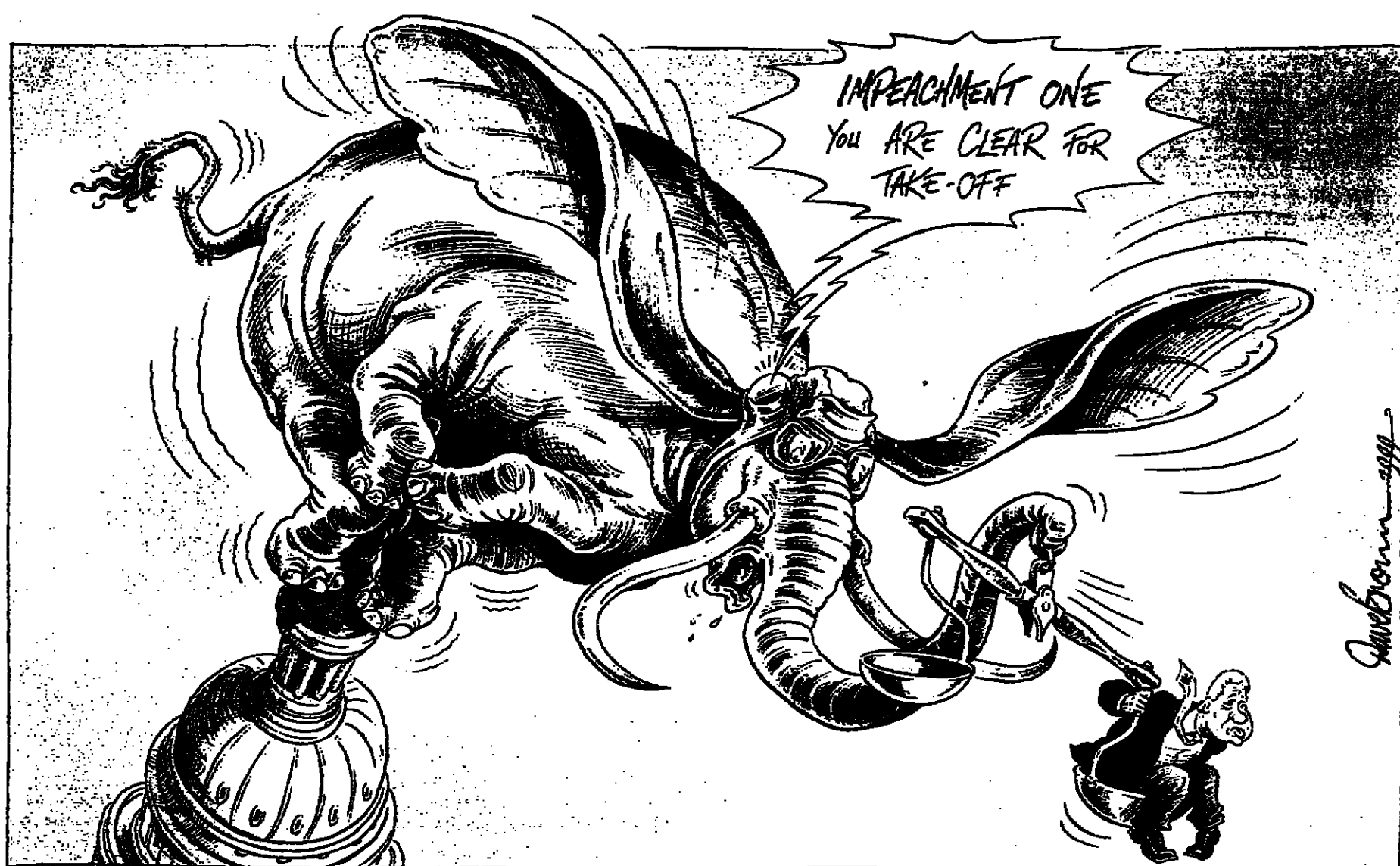
Within days of its launch, the euro has already been adopted by central banks and international investors as a major reserve currency. The Bank of England has even supplanted the Treasury in issuing bills of exchange denominated in the new euro.

In the short run this has had its benefits. As the value of the euro has risen on the foreign exchanges, the dollar has fallen, and with it sterling. The fears of an overvalued British currency destroying the country's export industry, so prevalent only a few months ago, are fast receding. The value of the pound is still not as low as industry, or even the Bank of England, would like. But it is not nearly as threatening as it was.

At the same time, on the latest figures, Britain appears to be moving towards recession - if recession indeed it should be - in a remarkably quiet and composed fashion. The indications are that demand even for services is beginning to fall, and with it the pressure on wages and prices. But the economy is not going into reverse, and may not do so for some time to come. Under these conditions the temptation for the wise men and one woman of the Bank's Monetary Committee will be to keep a holding position and wait to see what does emerge in the economy over the next few months.

That may be sensible in the short term. But it won't do for longer. The new reality for Britain is a currency that stands to rival the dollar in economic strength and international importance. Sterling will be left more and more a small sailing boat caught between two supertankers, pulled up and down with the dollar but equally liable to the swell from neighbouring Europe. In this situation the Bank of England will have to co-ordinate its actions with Europe. Already it is thinking of changing the UK definitions of inflation to fit the European criteria. When it does it will soon become apparent how high British rates are comparatively - not just by fractions but by a full per cent.

If that is the case, why not start now? The risks of inflation are minimal, the dangers of contraction are real. And why not start talking openly about what the euro does mean to us? Like it or not, we are part of a global village in which a new superstore has opened up on the high street.



Blair must take care not to fly into a trap

THIS WEEKEND Mr Blair will be in Kuwait to meet the crews of the British Tornados who participated in last month's air attacks against Iraq, and who daily run the risk of attack themselves as they patrol the no-fly zone in southern Iraq. The Prime Minister's spokesman says the visit is not to be seen as a bellicose gesture against Iraq. Mr Blair should be very careful that it does not become one.

Not long ago Mr Clinton was being praised for his "rope-a-dope" tactics of allowing Saddam Hussein to overreach himself in his obstruction of the UN arms inspectors, and thus provide Washington with the opportunity it sought to launch the air strikes. These days, it is Saddam who is learning a thing or two about rope-a-dope. By drawing US jets (and maybe soon those same Tornados

that Mr Blair is about to inspect) into dogfights in what is officially Iraqi sovereign air space, he is seeking to have Britain and the US overreach themselves. Not in a military sense, of course, for Anglo-American air superiority is absolute - but in the subtler sense which explains these almost daily provocations.

Saddam's strategy is to persuade world opinion that London and Washington are the true bullies of the piece, beating up an Iraq already brought to its knees by sanctions. If the tepid reaction to his latest call for a popular uprising against Arab leaders who have failed to support him is anything to go by, the outside world still needs a good deal of persuading.

But that could change. The latest flurry of Iraqi aerial defiance suggests that the damage inflicted by last month's four days of bombardment is a good deal less than that claimed by American and British propaganda. Arab leaders may soon come to recognise the Iraqi President for the scoundrel he is.

But popular reaction in the Gaza Strip and elsewhere shows that on the street, Saddam is not without his sympathisers - and a few more lost air battles may win some more. The no-fly zones are crucial for the containment of Saddam. President Clinton and Mr Blair must not allow them to become the means of an Iraqi public relations victory.

A radar blip

MR BLAIR and Mr Brown are "shoulder to shoulder". Mr Prescott says the Prescott-Brown axis is "a load of nonsense". Mr Cook thinks the crisis has been got up by journalists. So, a concerted effort to restore unity. But the spin doctors' radar failed to detect Prince Edward's engagement. This happy but inconsequential event will easily displace politics in a press still obsessed, in the main, with the royals. Peter, they're missing you already.

There's nothing journalists love more than flexing their muscles

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Thinking outside the box in adult life is often the equivalent to a little naughtiness in childhood"
Charles Handy,
management consultant

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"In politics, nothing is contemptible."
Benjamin Disraeli,
Prime Minister

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DAVID AARONOVITCH

Run enough stories and eventually there will be a reaction. This reaction, of course, vindicates the stories

Mandelson was somehow hijacked by ruthless broadsheet hacks. The only thing missing was one of those Sunday Times charts of the passage of the manuscript through various cubbyholes in the Commons press gallery.

Without any evidence at all, the blame for the leak was eventually hung around the hairy neck of Charlie Whelan, Gordon Brown's press secretary. This gave the Mandelson affair its third twist: the Chancellor was said to be at war with the Prime Minister. Once again, with little evidence adduced that there was any meaningful difference between Blair and Brown, vast screeds were devoted to the two men and their entourages, allies and enemies. Yesterday, after nearly a week of this and after Whelan had resigned, Tony Blair felt it necessary to tell the press that his relationship with

Gordon was very close. Within hours I heard a newscaster ask a correspondent to agree that it was "significant that he felt the need to say this".

If you stop and consider for a moment, the circularity of the process becomes obvious. Run enough stories and eventually there will be a reaction. This reaction, of course, vindicates the stories

When we journalists ask politicians about "appearances" rather than substance ("But it doesn't look good, does it, minister?"), you can bet that we are on intellectually weak ground. On Wednesday the announcement of Prince Edward's impending marriage was covered on some outlets almost entirely in terms of how newspapers would report it, or had already reported it. This is not surprising, because the event itself has no significance whatsoever. Edward is the fourth child and will never ascend to the throne, and his wedding has only a certain titillating, soap-opera value. Except to him, of course.

But, unlike the case with the Whelan story, at least there was the excuse that some readers, viewers or listeners might be interested in it. By contrast very few people care about the Chancellor's press secretary, preferring to concentrate on arcane matters such as the funding of the health service. And, as with Jennifer's Ear, when the next election comes, the

name Whelan will not be on the lips of those exiting from polling stations.

So why do we get these feeding frenzies? Our man in the States, Andrew Marshall, yesterday quoted the Internet muckraker, Matt Drudge, as having advised that "you gotta feed the machine slowly". But the machine is not fed by, say, the fact that there is an AIDS epidemic in South Africa that threatens that country's ability to lead the continent out of poverty and tyranny. That story will be reported in the broadsheets, but it will simply not get the prominence or the journalistic effort expended upon it that will go into a Mandelson/Whelan saga.

I think there are two reasons for this, apart from the traditional anti-intellectualism of British journalistic culture. The first is that any story about spin doctors is really a story about us journalists ourselves. If they are the spinners, we are the spinn; if they are manipulators, then we are the manipulated. We use them, and we hate them for it. They are our dark reflections. Or is it the other way round?

The second reason is egotism. Some of us prefer to shape the world rather than merely to reflect it; to create the news and not just report it. It was "The Sun won't win it" in '92, The Guardian that laid Mandelson low in '98, The Mirror that did for Charlie Whelan in '99, and next year - God willing - it will be that powerful, incisive journalist, David Aaronovitch, who will be responsible for the fall of Jack Cunningham...

Or someone like that. Mmmmm, feel my muscles.

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The German press reflects on Britain's failure to adopt the euro

whether they can remain a great business nation without curtailing national self-determination, there is still no conclusive answer. Trade and sovereignty: the

euro is leading proud Britain into the torture chamber of an issue which one could always avoid in the past, but cannot do for much longer. Die Welt

WHAT BRITAIN needs now is political leadership; business will soon be calling for it, since it wants a target date so that it can plan ahead. In Blair's defence, it has to be pointed out that powerful EU partners have not made it easier to campaign for the euro and Europe. LaFontaine's statements caused a lot of broken china. Polls show that Blair has a hard task ahead. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

HESITANT BRITAIN is reckoning on lots of action ahead. The pound has been moving closer to the dollar than European currencies have been. Caught between the two gigantic blocks of the euro and the dollar, Britain's economy - which reacts sensitively to exchange rates - could soon lead to a hasty and spontaneous entry of the United Kingdom into the European monetary union. Handelsblatt

IN THAT famous novel of political campaigning, *Primary Colors*, the narrator, Henry, describes how the US press corps (or "scorps" as he calls them) descend upon him, looking for his reaction to his rivals' reactions to a sex scandal that has not quite happened yet. In Henry's view the situation is surreal:

"They weren't scumbag gossip reporters, they were media analysts. The scorps weren't reporting the trash, but how we dealt with the trash. The story hadn't really broken yet, and already it was one step removed: the press was reporting about how the candidate would deal with how the press would report about the story."

When I first read that paragraph, penned by the veteran American political journalist Joe Klein (alias "Anonymous"), I was transported back to the election of 1992. Historians record that Labour lost this campaign for two main reasons: a lack of faith in Neil Kinnock as prospective prime minister, and the perception of Labour as a party of high taxation (although some of our more eccentric commentators throw in the Sheffield victory rally for good measure).

But no one argues today that the decisive factor was an incident surrounding a party political broadcast by Labour, transmitted on 24 March 1992, that came to be known as the War of Jennifer's Ear. They did then, though. As the background to a true story about ear grommets on the National Health became ever more convoluted, TV news viewers witnessed the extraordinary spectacle of newspaper journalists interviewing each

other about who had told whom what trivia regarding the real Jennifer.

For the first time in the entire campaign the BBC newsroom came alive with some sort of excitement. Here, at last, was a real, running story. Front pages were held and the language was apocalyptic. Recrimination inside the Labour camp was intense. Yet, six years later, Labour's PR expert Philip Gould, in his book *The Unfinished Revolution*, concludes only that, "whatever our true position Jennifer's Ear" had not hurt us. It might even have helped.

It was a classic Beltway story, inflated beyond reason by the strange relationship that exists between political journalists and politicians. Something similar has been happening in America - albeit on a grander scale - for the last year. But ever since 23 December it has been Jennifer's Ear time again here in Britain. The initial revelation of the Mandelson loan was followed by stage two of the story, when tabloids and broadsheets scoured every soft furnisher's and design gallery in West London, looking for signs of high living.

But Peter departed, and the story threatened to go away. Various promising little pathways to do with the Britannia Building Society also seemed to lead nowhere. And so the whole thing mutated into a "who leaked the story" story. The more farcical part of this enquiry has involved *The Guardian* and *The Mirror* swapping insults and column inches on whether a package destined for Mr Paul Routledge, and containing his new Kitty Kelley-style biography of Mr

of ravens, is fleeing the island: Billions are being moved from London, in the direction of euroland. It was a high and proud horse upon which you Britons have climbed. But now you should quietly dismount. Bild Zeitung

THE MAJORITY of Britons experienced the launch of the euro as a chapter in *Alice in Wonderland*: full of absurdities and contradictions.

To the crunch question of

whether they can remain a great business nation without curtailing national self-determination, there is still no conclusive answer. Trade and sovereignty: the

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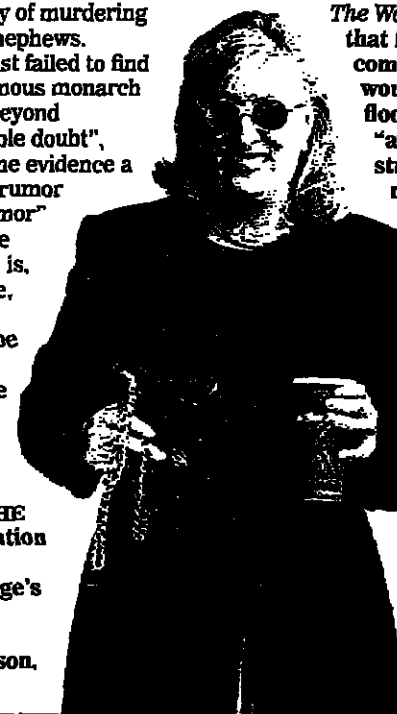
PANDORA

THE SHADOW Foreign Secretary, Michael Howard, will address the Young Conservative Group for Europe next week. At a meeting in the House of Commons, Howard, a hard-line Eurosceptic, will attempt to woo this young band of Europhiles now driven delirious by the launch of the euro. "The euro has been a success so far, and it is important that we put that message across to the party," one of the organisers told Pandora. However, the message is to be delivered behind closed doors because "we don't want to hang out our dirty washing in public." So, then, might Howard face a bit of boisterous ribaldry at the meeting? "We'll have to wait and see," said the young Europhile. That's funny, isn't it that what William Hague is saying about the single currency? Perhaps there will be unity in the Tory party after all.

TOM HANKS, three times an Oscar winner, is feeling the pressure of fame. As the combined gross of his two most recent films, *Saving Private Ryan* and *You've Got Mail*, passed \$200m, the star told *Entertainment Weekly* that: "Sometimes being a movie star in a public place is like being a man with a chicken on his head, and everyone is looking and pointing." Hanks says that the closest he can get to anonymity is to "strip down naked in a hotel room and walk around on the patio". However, if reports that Hanks is interested in running for president in the year 2000 are true, he would be advised to keep his pants on.

ONE OF the few things that is known about Bill Clinton's impeachment trial, due to start today, is that the Supreme Court Chief Justice, William Rehnquist, will be in charge. Rehnquist presided over an equally controversial trial in 1996 at the Indiana University School of Law, when he found Richard III not guilty of murdering his two nephews. Rehnquist failed to find the infamous monarch guilty "beyond reasonable doubt", calling the evidence a kind of "rumor upon rumor" [sic]. The question is, of course, will Bill Clinton be shown the same clemency?

WITH THE serialisation of Paul Routledge's book on Peter Mandelson.



The *Mirror* has gone "Mandy" mad. The legendary Mandy label, which the former Cabinet minister is said to hate so much (see Pandora of 6 October), headlined no fewer than three times in yesterday's *Mirror*. First, in a report about relations with Gordon Brown, then the Routledge serialisation, and of course the cartoon strip "Mandy". This "Mandy" is about the antics of young girls rather than a cartoon pastiche of Mandelson's life. A pity, because the cartoon adventures of Mandy, Weggy, Charlie and Brownie would probably spin a good yarn.

LINDA TRIPP (pictured), who may or may not be called to the Clinton trial as a witness, is in trouble with her Internet service provider, Bruce Fisher. Fisher claims that Tripp, the White House confidante of Monica Lewinsky, has reneged on a \$15,000 deal to maintain her website (lindatripp.com) and clear it of unwanted messages, one of which, according to the *New York Daily News*, read: "Linda Tripp is so ugly, she went into a haunted house and came out with an application." Fisher received only a token payment of \$1,500 and a letter of apology from Tripp and her advisers. The Hawaii based internet company is hoping to encourage Tripp to pay up by ceasing their efforts to clean up the site. "There will be nasty stuff there again, but I hope it won't be vile," says Fisher.

PANDORA SALUTES the scientists who are still trying to work out why the *Titanic* sank. Even after nearly 90 years rivets recovered from the wreck are still being examined. The theory that weak rivets led to an "unzipping" of the ship's hull was publicised last year and has been added to by a US government scientist, Timothy Foeckle. The scientist reveals to

The *Washington Post* that fewer compartments would have flooded if the "average strength of the rivets had been higher". Wow, such spot-on analysis is obviously unsinkable, but surely the key player must remain the rather large iceberg in the *Titanic*'s path?

Revealed: women are people too



ANNE MCELVOY

Successful women cannot be reduced to a set of qualities that can then be used like a recipe

Mr York has managed to cross two repressive instincts and produce a hybrid of ghastly conformity. The first is the time-honoured male instinct, according to which women are to be seen and not heard. The second is the dreary North American corporatism of the Fifties which demanded that human beings behave like well trained robots. Perhaps he could be forgiven all

this, had he not outlived dressing up when we have a mind to, the one residual bit of fun in office life. I'll give that up when the executive men around me shed their Richard James ties and the creative ones trade in their black crew necks.

The word "natural", lurking in the undergrowth of the argument, is a sure sign that something is amiss. From Mary Wollstonecraft onwards, awkward women have been complaining about having a view of naturalness foisted upon them which suits the describers, not the described. As Marilyn French pointed out in her acerbic essay on Lady Macbeth, the demonic power of her story rests on relentless imagery that instils into us the view that her behaviour is not only morally wrong, but also unnatural, since she is a woman and has no business breaking rules, trivial or serious.

Still, I thought, Mr York is a famous spotter of trends. Perhaps the man is right. Out with the red Versace, in with the fawn Laura Ashley. My new year's resolution was to spread a little calm, hold that barbed riposte and, when in doubt, murmur "You're so right."

Imagine my horror when this newspaper reported yesterday on a paper given to the British Psychological Society. It maintained that women who wish to become senior executives need to exhibit "macho kick-ass characteristics" in order to prosper. In five years of interviewing managers, the compiler had found that the best female ones did not mind being disliked, "because they had to take tough decisions".

What is the point of all this? The pseudo-science of studying pushy broads must be nicely profitable for those concerned. I can't see what use it is to the companies who pay for it. For a discreet but vast sum, I will give any bidder the benefit of my 10-year analysis of women in the workplace, summarised as follows: 1. Successful women cannot be reduced to a set of qualities that can then be used like a recipe: "take one part aptitude to two parts attitude and leaven with self-deprecation".

Fashions change. Companies that are going through insecure times like bossy women as bosses because it suggests confidence, even when the balance sheet does not support this view. In less

turbulent periods, however, they tend to play safe.

2. The female of the species is more like the male than the male would like to think - she is neither more nor less altruistic. On the whole, ambitious women are not aiming for the top as part of a feminist crusade, but because it is nicer at the top than in the middle. Do not, therefore, expect female bosses to be particularly nice to other women. You would not expect such selflessness from men.

3. Ambitious women still strike men as rather odd, because male-dominated cultures prize uniformity. They see brutal self-advancement in the most innocuous gestures. "Are you networking furiously?" a colleague asked me at a party recently. At the time I was leaning against a wall, drinking wine and chatting to a friend.

4. (This is the revelatory bit). Women are people. There are different kinds of them. Some are loud and bouncy, others are quiet and mousy. A lot are in between. They all have their uses. The important thing is to remember that they are there.

How a minor dose of flu nearly felled the NHS



JEREMY LAURANCE

The lesson of this latest 'crisis' is that the condition of the health service remains fragile

I HAVE had flu. I know this because I experienced its defining symptom: an irresistible desire to lie down. When it happens there is no mistaking it. I took to my bed on New Year's Day, dosed myself with aspirin, paracetamol and regular lots of my mother-in-law's snot gin and, in common with thousands of others, waited for the illness to pass.

You wonder why I am telling you this? Because there is a puzzle about the current flu outbreak which my own experience may help illuminate. According to the Royal College of General Practitioners' flu monitoring unit in Birmingham there is no epidemic. The numbers affected - fewer than two in 1,000 people on yesterday's figures - are low by comparison with previous winters and will need to double before we have what is officially termed an epidemic.

If that is the case, why have half the people I know - or, at any rate, many more than one in a thousand of them - apparently been laid low by the bug? And why, more importantly, is the NHS struggling to cope, closing wards to all but emergency admissions, cancelling routine surgery and, ominously, hiring freezer lorries to provide temporary expanded mortuary space?

The answer to the first question is the easiest. Figures recorded by the Royal College of General Practitioners' (RCGP) monitoring unit - the gold standard for flu watchers - are based on reports from 850 GPs in 90 practices in the UK covering 700,000 patients. Every patient who goes to see one of these GPs suffering from flu or a flu-like illness is reported to the monitoring unit and becomes a national statistic.

Thousands of sufferers - myself included - have not bothered their GPs for the very good reason that there is nothing they can do for flu

that patients cannot do for themselves (drink plenty of fluids, go to bed, keep warm and take whatever over-the-counter remedy you prefer). The published figures therefore vastly underestimate the true incidence of the illness.

I suspect this disparity between the true level of illness and the published level has grown wider in recent years as public understanding of flu has improved. A viral illness such as flu cannot be shifted by antibiotics and, as more people recognise that GPs have nothing better to offer than TLC (tender loving care) - and they tend to be short of that, too, at this time of year, they are increasingly dosing themselves at home rather than seeking help at the surgery. Thus while the RCGP unit declares this year's flu toll to be low, offices are denuded, paracetamol sales soar and homes echo to the sounds of groaning invalids begging for another Lemsip.

The more tricky question is why this low level of illness should be putting such an unwelcome stress on the NHS. The weather has been

warm, the health service has had a generous cash injection to deal with winter pressures - £150m so far, with a further £50m in reserve - and the Government boasted some months ago that it was reopening or preventing the closure of 2,000 extra beds.

It poses the question of what would happen if there were a genuine epidemic, a prospect that seemed to worry Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, on Tuesday when he acknowledged that it would be "very difficult to cope". Compared with this year's two in 1,000 people suffering from flu, the 1993 outbreak peaked at 30 per cent above this level and the 1989 epidemic at more than two-and-a-half times above it. In 1969, the year of the last global pandemic, the infection rate hit 10 per 1,000, implying that more than 500,000 people were falling victim each week.

Were such a pandemic to occur again, and scientists predict that a repetition is inevitable, on the evidence of this week's experience we would need a fleet of freezer lorries to join the one hired by the Norfolk and Norwich hospital to expand its mortuary space.

The causes of the current NHS "crisis" are complex. The first point for the sceptical observer to bear in mind is that it has occurred just as the NHS pay review bodies are finalising their reports for presentation to the Cabinet. Inflation-busting rises in excess of 5 per cent for nurses and doctors are being sought by the unions and a crisis in the NHS, especially if it can be linked to staff shortages, provides a useful lever to loosen ministerial purse-strings.

The second point is that the NHS is in fact performing rather well, as yesterday's announcement of a record fall in the waiting-list demonstrates, but it has become a victim



Our over-crowded hospitals are under real strain

BBC

of its own success. Thousands more patients have been treated and operations carried out, raising bed occupancy rates and putting increased stress on facilities. The result is an NHS that, while well funded, is running close to capacity. Thus it is efficient in terms of producing maximum bang for each buck, but has little flexibility to accommodate sudden increases in demand such as occurred at Christmas. A few elderly people going down with flu can soon clog up a casualty unit if beds are full and there is nowhere to move patients on to.

That said, there are genuine staffing problems, especially among nurses and associated staff such as physiotherapists. A buoyant economy and low unemployment have meant stiff competition among employers for the 18-year-old school-leavers whom the NHS normally recruits. Hospitals have been losing out to Marks & Spencer, and, nationally, the Royal College of Nursing claims that 8,000 posts are vacant.

There is anecdotal evidence that problems blamed on the flu outbreak

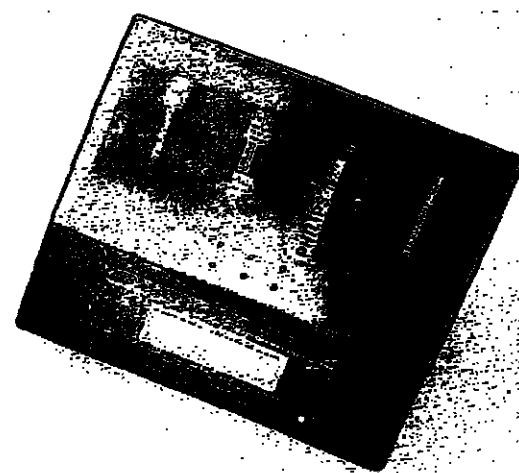
were in fact caused by the way Christmas fell on a Friday this year. That meant GP surgeries stayed closed for a full four days, rather than the normal two of Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Deputising services were unable to cope and patients phoned 999 instead. St James's University Hospital in Leeds, where attendances at accident and emergency were 50 per cent up between Christmas and the New Year compared with the previous year, was back to normal this week. No flu outbreak was ever over so swiftly.

The lesson of this latest "crisis" is that the condition of the NHS remains fragile, despite the large sums invested and even larger sums to come over the next three years. Though improving, the slightest pressure could be enough to trigger a relapse. The right prescription is a steady infusion of funds, careful monitoring and a recognition that cutting waiting-lists must never be allowed to usurp its central function - to provide immediately a bed and care for every truly ill patient in their hour of need.

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How we can improve our buses



PODIUM

RICHARD KNOWLES
From a speech by
Salford University's
reader in geography to
the Royal Geographical
Society conference

AFTER NEARLY two decades of transport deregulation and privatisation, the Labour Government's 1998 Transport White Paper has put transport integration and re-regulation back on the political agenda. Integrated transport - was the central theme of the Transport White Paper in the context of growing intra- and inter-urban traffic congestion, predicted growth of car traffic (by more than one-third in the next 20 years), continuing decline in deregulated bus patronage, the declining mobility of 13 million people living in the 30 per cent of households that do not own cars, and rising carbon dioxide emissions.

From 1979 to 1997, the Conservative government's triple-track transport policy had deregulated transport services and fares, privatised state and put municipally-owned operators into the transport market.

However, most transport markets were not contested and deregulation often resulted in near-monopoly control of local areas by a single transport company. Deregulation also reduced through-ticketing and interchange between rail

and bus. Since 1986, local bus deregulation outside Greater London and bus privatisation have led to a 29 per cent fall in passenger numbers despite a 25 per cent increase in bus mileage, a real increase in bus fares of 22 per cent and a fall in operating costs of more than a third in real terms (mainly through reduced drivers' wages and fewer management and engineering staff), while public subsidy has been cut by more than half.

The new integrated transport policy defines integration in four ways: integration between and within transport modes locally and nationally; integration of transport and land use planning; integration with the environment; integration with education, health and wealth creation policies.

However, the White Paper's radical policies are not supported with the substantial increase in public transport capital investment which is needed to improve its quality and quantity sufficiently to attract many current car users to switch modes.

This puts at risk the success of the integrated transport policy which the Deputy Prime Minister said should be judged on whether car usage had declined by 2003. Few car users are likely to switch to public transport or cycling without either substantial prior capital investment in much higher-quality bus and rail systems and cycle networks, or financial incentives.

The White Paper itself was delayed while more radical policies were deleted in fear of a political backlash from car-

owning voters. Thus taxing car park spaces at out-of-town leisure and retail sites was omitted, company car benefits were retained, no targets were set for road traffic reduction and traffic speeds were not addressed either by stricter enforcement or lower general speed limits.

Proposals for workplace car parking charges and motorway tolls have been deferred while the decision (and potential backlash) on whether to introduce congestion-charging on urban roads has been given to individual local authorities without any guarantee that they will be able to ring-fence and spend the income raised on transport schemes. Re-regulation of bus fares was not even considered in the White Paper.

Although bus patronage continues to decline, buses are still the main form of public transport in Britain outside Greater London. The challenge is to provide better quality buses, with faster, more reliable journey times sufficiently improved for car users to switch modes for some journeys without either substantial extra public funding of public

transport or real disincentives to use cars.

The Government hopes that "Quality Partnerships" can produce better local bus services through voluntary co-operation between local councils which, as highway authorities, own the road space, and the privately-owned bus companies which operate most bus services. The Deputy Prime Minister's view is clear: "The bus must have priority on the road. That will lead to faster, more reliable services which attract more passengers." Some bus companies see Quality Partnerships as good business and good publicity, particularly FirstGroup, Arriva and Stagecoach, which together control 60 per cent of the British bus market.

The Government's Integrated Transport Policy lacks the substantial investment in public transport needed. Government policy therefore relies heavily on the success of low-cost Quality Partnerships. In-depth analysis on a "before and after" basis is needed to measure the extent to which Bus Quality Partnerships can change travel behaviour.

too

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Don't be fooled by China



CHRIS PATTEN
*It's a simple truth -
you can only do business
with totalitarians if you
lick their boots first*

ONE OF the more bizarre events of last year was the attempt to parade China's Premier, Zhu Rongji, as an Asian representative of the Third Way. Mr Zhu, who has a sense of humour, must have been quietly amused. He made his own position clear recently when greeting his Vietnamese opposite number. The purported ability of the Vietnamese and Chinese economies to withstand the effects of the Asian financial crash demonstrated, according to Zhu, "the advantage of socialism". Surely not even John Prescott would have gone quite that far.

What did Zhu actually mean by this? He was presumably characterising the measures taken by China over the past year, even as Western leaders fell over themselves in the rush to Peking to pay tribute to the wisdom and growing open-mindedness - so it is claimed - of China's leaders. He must have been thinking of foreign exchange controls, backtracking on privatisation, the total politicisation of credit, restrictions on market access and a crack-down on any sign of political dissent. It is this sort of backlash against greater economic and political openness, not confined to China, which threatens serious trouble for Asia and therefore for the rest of us in the year ahead.

The case for authoritarianism, usually corrupt and often incompetent, was one of the main casualties of the Asian crash that began 18 months ago. What had once been lauded as visionary nation-building - Indonesia plc, South Korea Inc - was now denounced as crony capitalism. No longer were outsiders likely to sit quiet, while being lectured on the moral relativity of human rights and on the close relationship between GDP growth and the curbing of democracy, civil society and freedom.

There were proximate financial and economic causes of Asia's crisis - above all, perhaps, the slump in Japan which represents three-quarters of the whole region's economy. But the underlying reasons for the turmoil were political.

The analysis was not breathtakingly original. The wonder is that so many people had overlooked it for so long. Sustainable economic progress requires open markets and



'The advantages of socialism': mounds of rubbish on the streets of Shanghai reflect the inefficiency of China's outmoded economic and social policies

free trade, and they flourish best in liberal democracies under the rule of law. "Is that all you've got to say?" someone once asked me accusingly. "Er, well, yes actually." It's a simple truth, periodically buried under self-serving drivel about the inscrutable differences of the Orient or under the humiliating and unproven assumption that you can only do business with totalitarians if you lick their boots first.

Recovery in Asia is going to be slow and patchy. It will be led by those countries that have most enthusiastically embraced the need for reform. For those that seek to sit into the wind, worse is probably still to come.

While China was locking up democracy activists the other day, Taiwan was counting the votes in its latest round of elections. Taiwan is a free society, increasingly open, with an economy that has done better than any other in Asia over the last year of turmoil.

South Korea's economic collapse in the autumn of 1997 scared international bankers and worried the world's international financial institutions. The Koreans still have some way to go, but under a democratic government, led by the intrepid Kim Dae Jung, they are

making headway. The currency has stabilised and strengthened. Interest rates have been cut.

In Thailand - where the crash began - the most democratic government in the country's history is making steady progress under its decent prime minister, Chuan Leekpai. From the outset the Thais recognised that political and economic reform must go hand in hand. They too have seen their currency strengthen and interest rates fall. Confidence has started to return.

Elsewhere, some governments have set a different course. Malaysia is one of the most worrying examples. Dr Mahathir reacted to the crisis by turning his back on reform and locking up its principal advocate, his deputy Anwar Ibrahim. Anwar's trial has turned into a ghastly paradigm of the corrupt authoritarianism and non-sense economies that threaten a turbulent future for his country.

But China represents the most significant attempt to force a passage through the financial storms with a combination of statist economics and Leninist politics. And all this has happened during a year in which "constructive engagement" with China has been justified on the grounds that it is the

right, indeed the only way to secure improvements in human rights and continued economic reform.

It is difficult to be against engagement: you cannot contain more than a fifth of humanity. But I see no reason why engagement should involve fooling ourselves about what's happening in China, or biting our tongues about the issue that will shape Asia's future - the triumph or failure of liberal, pluralist values.

First, China is not an emerging and stable economic giant, about to elbow Japan off centre stage. The welcome decision not to devalue its currency (so far) has been taken in its own interest. China's alleged stability has been based on controls over capital flows - exactly the sort of controls that we have pressed other countries to scrap. A tighter foreign exchange regime, so damaging to international companies, has been brought in to stem capital flight, the scale of which in recent years equalled foreign investment into China.

Second, the economic reform process in China has stalled because of the political dangers of going ahead with it. Closing down clapped-out state-owned firms risks rising unemployment and social turbulence. Growing economic

problems are almost certainly the reason for tougher political controls. The recent harsh sentences handed out to democracy activists are only part of a much wider campaign affecting film-makers and computer software developers.

The winter's political freeze in China tells us far more about what's happening to the real economy than any official statistics. Yet the longer the government postpones wide-ranging reform, the more money it will have to pour from its commercial banks into the bottomless pit of the nationalised firms.

So as the Chinese batten down the hatches at the start of what could be a very bumpy year, what do they make of us? They have seen the West humiliate and isolate its friends in the democracies of India and Japan in order to promote what is claimed to be a more mature relationship with China - a relationship that has seen China strongly attacking US and British policy in the Gulf (which was supported by Japan) and showing no interest in helping to defuse a growing crisis in North Korea.

They have turned Europe and America inside out on human rights, cynically signing interna-

tional covenants that they have no intention of ratifying or keeping, trading the occasional sick prisoner for a day's headlines, depending with total confidence on our continuing timorous self-deception. How much worse do they have to behave before someone in the West is prepared to say something about "the disadvantages of socialism"?

It is crucial in the coming months that European and American leaders speak out, as to his credit Al Gore did in Kuala Lumpur, on the case for liberal economics and politics in Asia and around the world. We should praise those who are courageously doing the right thing, give more help to those like the Indonesians who want to do what is right but are finding the path of reform hard going, and refuse to have any truck with the argument that the Asian crisis partly caused by authoritarianism can only be cured by a bigger dose of the same.

Democracy, transparency, free speech, civil society, the rule of law - these are not Western phenomena, they are universally valid. We should recognise that our best friends are those who believe in these things. They are more likely to be economically successful partners as well.

RIGHT OF REPLY

MARJORIE ORR



The astrologer for 'The Express' newspaper responds to John Walsh's attack on divination

BEING THE butt of withering contempt, and cheap and easy jibes like those of Scorpio John Walsh, goes with the job of astrology. (Why are attacks often from Scorpios? They can't possibly all be the same, can they?)

Maybe astrology unsettles the critics' need for control. They loathe the idea that they may not be in charge of their own destiny. There is free will - a limited amount - but the astrological influences still drive things. Knowing what the influences are helps ordinary, open-minded people know where to put their energy. Emollient? Most people live lives of mild to major desperation and need some sense of order, however unexplained or trashed by the intellectual gestapo. Yes, there are times when one knows that there will be immense pressure, but telling readers that they may be driven off the edge is hardly a reasonable option.

Clairvoyant I ain't. Once I tried a crystal ball. It gave me a headache and I kept it only for photographers, who run on a predictably narrow agenda. Astrology is worked out, simply or in complex detail, on astronomical positions and mathematical calculations. It will not make literal predictions - say, that Saturn moving into Taurus in April will cause a tree to fall on your car. But it will tell you that Scorpios will feel increasingly separated from relationships that were once close.

Journalists and scientists may join the general howl, but they run against the tide of what ordinary people know to be the case. Astrology will not explain all of life or make your decisions for you. But it is a hugely successful tool for explaining personality types and it is the only system in existence at the moment which can predict influences which do, undoubtedly, affect human behaviour.

Stop blaming Mum and Dad

THURSDAY BOOK

**THE NURTURE ASSUMPTION:
WHY CHILDREN TURN OUT THE WAY THEY DO**
BY JUDITH RICH HARRIS, BLOOMSBURY, £18.99



TORMENTED BY a belief that our parents messed us up, and fearful of the damage we will inflict on the next generation, Western adults have long needed a saviour. Someone who can relieve us of Philip Larkin's worrying burden: "They fuck you up, your mum and dad. They may not mean to, but they do. They fill you with the faults they had/ And add some extra, just for you."

Judith Rich Harris is a fiery iconoclast who offers relief. If you accept the central thesis of the "nurture assumption", you can at last relax about raising your children. You can stop berating yourself about not giving them enough attention. When they end up drop-outs, drug addicts or simply difficult, you need no longer wonder where you went wrong. Because, if Harris is right, there was not much you could have done in any case.

THURSDAY POEM

VENUS ON HER BIRTHDAY
BY SARAH CORBETT

This is my big day.
Here I am, blushing,
a sherbet and cream harlot
blown in on a seashell.

Have I missed something,
cold as alabaster as I am?
I crave a muscular warmth,
a hand reaching out, sighing.

Instead, it's raining roses,
their wet scent staining the light.
They are bloodless, washed out versions,
a silence for shouting.

On the shore a man paints.
With his brush poised he waits, waits.

Our poems this week come from volumes shortlisted for the T S Eliot Prize, to be announced on 11 January. Sarah Corbett's 'The Red Wardrobe' is published by Seren (£6.95)

Far from being a lasting influence in child development, she says, parental upbringing is less important than genes and peers. If you want your children to turn out well, worry about who your partner is and who your children's mates are. But don't fret about spending too long at work and too little time reading with them. And, while you are chucking out the wisdom of today's child advisers, give your own parents a ring and let them off the hook. You are not their fault.

It is easy to understand why Harris's work is controversial. It plunges into emotive politics, using overblown language that has raised her voice above the general din in this field. Her book can be read as a manifesto for day care. It provides a coherent, guilt-reducing ideology for those who cannot or will not spend much time with their children. So it will be given an extensive examination by the opinion-forming classes, desperate to rationalise their overworked lives.

It will also depress many. It strikes a chord with a culture that offers little respect for those who are involved in the skilled and demanding job of raising children. It also undermines the latest generation of aspirational fathers, a group who may in the coming decade inject fresh status into caring for children. If parenting is inconsequential, then fathers don't matter much either; so the new generation of men must be wasting its energy.

There is a lot at stake. Let's stick to the important question: is Harris right in saying that parents do not matter much in building their children's character? Her crucial allies are the behavioural geneticists, who have demonstrated that there are few predictable similarities between siblings reared together, and amazing similarities between identical twins raised in very different homes. She takes this observation to mean that parental nurturing is not influential. However, Harris is not a genetic determinist. Heredity, she says, accounts for only about 50

per cent of variation in personality traits. If parents are not responsible for the rest of human personality, who is? The peer group, she answers. Look at the children of non-English-speaking immigrants. Despite their parents' inadequacies, they turn into Americans. Likewise, observe the children of deaf parents. They learn to speak, even though in their early years they do not hear much language. These examples, she says, vividly demonstrate how much more important is the outside world in child development.

This is too short a summary to do full justice to Harris's arguments, which are based on a vast survey of the available literature. Her book is worth reading if only for the pleasure of watching an acknowledged outsider taking on the conventional wisdom with such chutzpah. But I find some serious flaws in her approach. For a start, her theory of personality development seems to

rely too heavily on a theory of language development. It is, therefore, far from proven. I can't help feeling that she started out by assuming her conclusion that peers are, on the nurture side, all-important in creating character. It is a shame that she has not questioned her own theories with the same intensity she focuses on others'.

Second, Harris is disingenuous in the way she writes about parents. The facts are all there, but some of the important ones are deeply buried. If you read closely you will discover that she accepts the importance of early relationships, up to age four. She agrees that parents inhabit our thoughts for life, and that they can make the difference between a happy and a miserable childhood. And, of course, they are highly influential in determining the child's peer group.

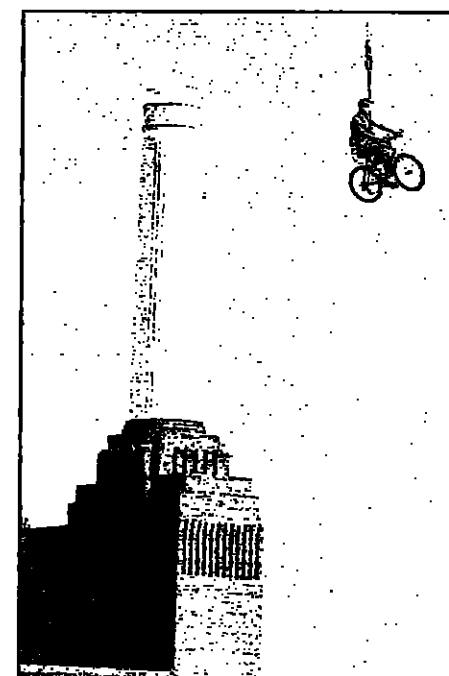
That is quite a lot, for someone who is selling her book on the basis that parents do not really matter. I salute Judith Rich Harris's intellectual tenacity. But, as a journalist, I can spot sensationalism and ideology dressed up as science. This book has encouraged me to relax a bit as a parent, for which I am thankful. But I still think, if only by reading between the lines, that what I do as a father matters a great deal.

JACK O'SULLIVAN



Even the Prime Minister, it seems, may have little influence on his children

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



Bungee Jump by Kalpesh Lathigra
Ref. 00110

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Judge Michael Argyle

A VARIATION of the curse "May you live in interesting times" could, for defendants in criminal cases, be "May you have an interesting judge". Michael Argyle, who sat for many years at the Old Bailey, was never less than interesting. Unpredictable, volatile, right-wing, deaf to political correctness, he was one of the old-fashioned judges who are described euphemistically as "robust" and by disappointed defendants and not a few counsel who appeared before him as "a dog". Ultimately, with an early retirement in 1988 he paid the price for his views and utterances, but he remained unrepentant to the end of his life.

Argyle was educated at Westminster School and later at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was called to the Bar, joining Lincoln's Inn, in 1938 but with the coming of the Second World War his career was interrupted almost before it had begun. He served with the 7th Queen's Own Hussars in the Middle East, India and then Italy where he was awarded an immediate Military Cross for organising a tank crossing of the Po.

He returned to the Bar and the Midland Circuit in 1947. His best-known criminal case was his appearance for Ronald Biggs in the Great Train Robbery of 1963. Later he sent a contribution to the fund for Jack Mills, the driver injured during the robbery.

He became the Recorder of Northampton in 1962 and of Birmingham from 1965 to 1972 when he became a Circuit Judge, being appointed an Additional Judge at the Old Bailey. He had already made his mark as a reporter's judge with his comments whilst in Birmingham and over the years a small folio could have been compiled of some of his more outrageous remarks. Amongst them was his comment to an attempted rapist on whom he imposed a suspended sentence. "You come from Derby which is my part of the world. Off you go and don't come back." Others included "You are far too attractive to be a policewoman - you should be a film star"; "a vicious little sodomite from Glas-

gow" to a mugging victim; and, when a strike had cancelled television coverage of a Test match in the West Indies, "It is enough to make an orthodox Jew want to join the Nazi party." It is Argyle to whom the term "Thiefrow" is attributed, following a spate of thefts at Heathrow airport.

Shortly after he first sat at the Old Bailey, he became involved in a *cause célèbre* when he presided over the so-called "Oz Trial". This satirical magazine produced a "schoolkids' issue", purporting to be written by children and which contained cartoons and articles on sadism and homosexuality. Despite attempts by the defence to introduce a certain amount of humour into the trial, Argyle was not amused, at

tutor was obliged to make an apology over an article by Argyle, to one of the Oz trial defendants, Felix Dennis, who at the time of the trial had been described by him as "very much less intelligent" than his fellows. Dennis had gone on to become a millionaire businessman.

Argyle was also upset, perhaps with more justification, when the Court of Appeal had reduced a life sentence on a soccer thug who had attacked a publican to three years. "Just about the next thing that happened was the Heysel Stadium tragedy. Football hooligans from then on felt they were fireproof."

He was a judge who believed that crime could be controlled by stiff sentences and that hardened criminals

million immigrants in Britain and that judges should be allowed to impose the death penalty in cases which carried penalties of more than 15 years. The Lord Chancellor, Michael Havers, reprimanded him and two months later Argyle announced he would retire the following year.

After that he continued to write to the newspapers about his *bêtes noires*, suggesting that Lord Longford had become a bore over his continuous championing of Myra Hindley and that the tapes of the children's cries should be played on prime time television and radio. "I warrant that more people will tune in than watched *Torvill and Dean*." He believed that, when Britain had extricated itself from Europe and the United Nations, things would get better and the weather would pick up. As for a suggestion by probation officers in 1990 that non-dangerous criminals should not go to prison, he considered that "claptrap", at the same time reiterating his call for the return of the death penalty.

A country and sporting man, who could not understand that his wife's racing colours "Nigger Brown, black cap" could cause offence, he was a noted whippet breeder. He was also keen on promoting terrier racing and, a life-time betting man who regularly visited bookmakers near the Old Bailey, was a supporter of National Hunt Racing. Convivial in private life, he was a member of the Carlton and the Cavalry as well as the Kennel Club. In the early 1950s he had unsuccessfully contested seats at Belper and Loughborough on behalf of the Conservative Party.

JAMES MORTON

Michael Victor Argyle, judge: born 31 August 1915; called to the Bar, Lincoln's Inn 1938; Bench 1967; Treasurer 1984; MC 1945; QC 1961; Recorder of Northampton 1962-65; of Birmingham 1965-70; Circuit Judge and an Additional Judge of the Central Criminal Court 1970-88; married 1951 Ann Newton (died 1994); three daughters; died Fiskerton, Nottinghamshire 4 January 1999.



Argyle was involved in controversy from when he first sat at the Old Bailey, in the Oz trial

His remarks could be outrageous. 'It is enough to make an orthodox Jew want to join the Nazi party.' Or, 'You are far too attractive to be a policewoman - you should be a film star'

one time reprimanding a group of American judges for sniggering.

Argyle's summing-up was hopelessly flawed and he then remanded the defendants in custody pending sentencing. The *New Law Journal* commented that the refusal by the Court of Appeal to grant bail was "another instance of the negation of the appellate function". Few expected there to be custodial sentences imposed. But when they were, the *New Law Journal* again commented that they were "indefensibly severe".

Argyle had seen the trial as one on which the survival of Christian civilisation depended. Years later, on Central Television, he commented that "... the traffic in soft porn and drugs resumed. If firmer stands had been taken by those in authority, a lot of people who have since been on drugs would never have been on them." In 1995 *The Spec-*

really only understood prison. He claimed complete support for his campaign to eradicate telephone kiosk vandalism in Birmingham. He also threatened life imprisonment for burglars, something which produced a reported, if temporary, 40 per cent drop in the crime rate in the city.

Argyle, however, was one of the judges who actually took a genuine interest in the welfare of those defendants whom he believed needed help and he would work throughout his luncheon trying to find work for young people. He attended night school to learn more about penology and was well ahead of his era when he suggested the criminal justice system should pay more attention to victims.

The end of his judicial career came with injudicious remarks at a speech to law students in Nottingham in July 1987 when he suggested that there were more than five



'I want to see where different creative processes lead me'

Joan Brossa

JOAN BROSSA was one of those subversive Catalans whose Surrealist vision defied artistic and political convention, tossing aside the boundaries between poetry, literature and art. He pioneered the concept of "visual poetry", defining it as "the expression of a poetic world by means of a visual code". He adored magic and the cinema, and his experimental work anticipated installation art and the anarchic "happenings" of the 1960s.

His "object poems" astonished the avant-garde Catalan art world in the 1940s with their ironic clash of disparate elements. A football crowned with a *peineta* (the comb that secures a lady's lace mantilla) represented "Pais" ("Nation"). "Conscientious Objector" showed a rifle butt topped with a church candle-snuffer. "Dirty Soap" is a cake of soap bearing a fingerprint.

Through his work he created a universe constructed from letters of the alphabet, objects from daily life, personalities of music hall, of silent movies, of strip-tease. "The last of the Utopians," one fan called him last week, "a great idealist who still had the ability to make us laugh." Another relished his "fine taste for the absurdities of existence".

Brossa was a restless youngster from a modest background whose family thought he would become an office clerk. In 1936, aged 17, he left his studies to fight for the republicans in the Civil War. Brossa marched to the Llerida front with a book by the poet Federico Garcia Lorca tucked in his pocket. Brossa's

first poem, about a battle at Segre, so pleased his commanders that they read it aloud to the whole battalion.

On his return to Barcelona he started to sell books banned by Franco. He imported them from Argentina and sold them to friends who then invited him to dinner. They introduced him to the Catalan poet J.V. Foix, the arts patron Joan Prats and the artist Joan Miró, who introduced him to Surrealism.

Brossa founded the Surrealist magazine *Dau al Set* in 1948 with a number of Catalan artists including Antoni Tàpies, with whom he shared a passion for Wagner. His poems, in Catalan, were first published in 1951 and his last book appeared in 1987.

Brossa formed the link between the modernist movements of the early 20th century and the faint breath of artistic renewal that stirred the Francoist cultural desert of the late 1940s and early 1950s. Like many of his generation who spent his youth in war and his adulthood squeezed by censorship, Brossa was an old man before his work was widely appreciated.

His theatrical works were performed clandestinely on improvised stages, in friends' houses. They included *Ori song* ("Gold and Blood") with sets designed by Tàpies, and a number of experimental films including *Cua de cuc* ("Worm's Tail"). As censorship eased in the Sixties, Brossa published plays and collections of poems.

He read his poems at the Berlin Festival of 1978, and at the Pompidou Centre in Paris. There followed the book *U no es ningú* ("One is Not

Nobody"), illustrated by Tàpies. By the 1980s Brossa was hailed internationally as a quirky eccentric artist who defied attempts to slot him into an "ism", an outsider with finely honed communication skills. Nearly all his theatrical works and dances were performed in this period.

At 70 he stepped into the great hall at the university of Santiago de Compostela to a 10-minute standing ovation from crowds of art and literature students. He began collecting literary and dramatic awards; and in 1989 he created a visual poem that celebrated the high-speed train.

Brossa embraced the main cultural adventures of his time - Dadaism, Surrealism, psychoanalysis, the fascination with the unconscious, zen, contemporary music, magic - and sought to develop a personal response to each. "My work has its own dynamic," he once said, "because I want to see where different creative processes lead me."

He sought to push out the frontiers of poetry, to make it provocative and modern. He explored new methods, first with words, then on the stage, later with images and finally objects. His poetry moved from the literary to the concrete, from verbal to visual images, in which the idea always took precedence over the aesthetic.

Art critics reproached him for blundering into their world, but Brossa reckoned that "today's poet must broaden his horizons, move away from books and project himself through the various means that society itself provides. The poet must use them like unexpected ve-

hicles, infusing them with an ethical content that society does not confer upon them."

He wanted to astonish the viewer and subvert logic. Over the years his assemblages of playing cards, watches, knives, hammers, spectacles, balls, top hats and combs formed a mordant critique of social and religious conventions. He mounted an exhibition in the Joan Miró Foundation in Barcelona in 1986 and held a retrospective in Madrid's Reina Sofia modern art museum in 1991.

His personal style remained that of the unrepentant lefty: dishevelled, ill-shaven and bundled up in an overcoat. He loved travelling on the bus, proudly flourishing his free pass given by the public transport authority of Barcelona, the city to which he donated all his works in 1987.

When he died he had a number of commissions in hand: several urban installations in a Barcelona suburb, a mural in a municipal hall, a sculpture in homage to Lorca at the poet's former lodgings at the Residencia de Estudiantes in Madrid, another in Granada.

"I receive a lot of requests," he said, a few weeks before he badly banged his head in a fall, and died two days later. He had been organising a big 80th birthday party where he planned to perform the magic tricks for which he was renowned.

ELIZABETH NASH

Joan Brossa, poet: born Barcelona 19 January 1919; married Pepa Llopi; died Barcelona 30 December 1998.

John McGrath

THE LURID public persona of John McGrath - something between Desperate Dan and Attila the Hun, as perceived by the average English football fan during the 1960s and early 1970s - was viewed wryly by those who had monitored the progress of the burly Mancunian at his first professional club.

At Bury, whom he had joined in 1955 after failing to break through as an amateur with Bolton Wanderers, McGrath was seen primarily as a constructive centre-half for whom lofty ambitions were harboured. Indeed, there were those at Gigg

Lane who saw in the personable son of a policeman a certain likeness to John Charles, the "Gentle Giant" a byword for polished central-defensive excellence. In the event, McGrath never proved remotely close to the majestic Welshman in terms of class, but he did enjoy a worthy and colourful career, much of which was spent in England's top division.

After becoming established at Bury, he left the Shakers three months before they claimed the Third Division Championship in 1961, though he had played enough games to earn a medal. Evidence of his bur-

geoning status were his destination, Newcastle United, and his fee, £24,000, plus the services of the hugely respected veteran Bobby Stokoe.

However, despite winning England under-23 honours shortly after his move, McGrath took time to settle at St James' Park, and the hopes of his boss Charlie Milten that the newcomer would be instrumental in saving the ailing Magpies from relegation were dashed. It was not until the pragmatic Joe Harvey became the long-term replacement for the adventurous Milten that the young defender began to flourish. Under

Harvey his game was transformed, a new and often fearfully abrasive approach belying his genial character; and he formed a formidable half-back line alongside Stan Anderson and Jim Riley which inspired Newcastle to the Second Division title in 1964/65.

Back among the elite, McGrath prospered for a season, but then found himself squeezed out by a combination of Ollie Burton, John McNamée and the richly promising Bobby Moncur. Accordingly in February 1968 he accepted a £20,000 transfer to Southampton, for whom he became the commanding cor-

nerstone of one of the First Division's most rugged rearguards. So outstanding was his form at the Dell that he moved to the verge of full England recognition, although selection for the Football League in 1969 was the closest he came.

In 1973, McGrath took up coaching with Southampton, whom he left in 1979 to become manager of Port Vale. After a sticky start with a poor side, he led them to promotion from Division Four in 1983, only to be sacked later that year when the Valiants floundered at the higher level. He encountered further travail

at the helm of Chester before tasting success with Preston North End, whom he guided up to the Third Division in 1987 and to the promotion play-offs two years later.

However, he returned to the basement with Halifax Town, where cash was so short that, as he put it at one press briefing, there wasn't enough to feed the club cat. The upshot was that the Shay was deluged with cat-food from animal-lovers all over England - and Halifax had no cat!

Though John McGrath's wit did not save him from dismissal in November 1992, it served him ad-

mirably in his subsequent successful career as an after-dinner speaker and as a soccer pundit on local radio in Lancashire.

IVAN PONTING

John Thomas McGrath, footballer and manager: born Manchester 23 August 1938; played for Bury 1955-61, Newcastle United 1961-68, Southampton 1968-74, Brighton on loan 1972; managed Port Vale 1979-83, Chester City 1984-85, Preston North End 1986-90, Halifax Town 1991-92; married; died Middleton, Greater Manchester 25 December 1998.

Iron Eyes Cody

IRON EYES Cody, a Cherokee born in Oklahoma, was one of several real American Indians to have had a lifetime career portraying native Americans on screen. Cody appeared in over 100 film and television shows - in many of them billed simply as "Indian", "Indian Chief" or "Indian Joe", and frequently acted as adviser for Indian sequences.

He had strong opinions about how his people should be portrayed in films, often correcting misconceptions about their culture, behaviour or history. To Americans, he will be best remembered for a series of 1970s television commercials and print advertisements for an anti-litter campaign, "Keep America Beautiful", which showed Cody shedding a single tear as he watched people pollute the environment with litter, and he devoted much of his later life to supporting the movement.

Cody's date of birth is generally considered to have been 3 April 1907, though dates from 1904 to 1915 have been given. His mother, Frances Salpet, was a Cree and his father, Thomas Long Plume, a Cherokee who performed in Wild West shows and circuses. Cody joined his father on the tent-show circuit at an early age, and is reputed to have made his screen debut as a child in *Massacre* (1912).

He was a dancer in *The Squaw Man* (1914), co-directed by Cecil B. De Mille, who was to use Cody several times through the years, and other silent films included *The Covered Wagon* (1923), *The Iron Horse* (1924, directed by John Ford), *The Vanishing American* (1925) and *War Paint* (1926).

He was even more prolific with the coming of sound, acting in several serials as well as features. In 1931 he was one of the warriors menacing a wagon train in an early Gary Cooper vehicle, *Fighting Caravans*, and he took part in a serial, *Lightning Warrior*, starring the wonder dog Rin Tin Tin in his last film which, with its action sequences and stunt-work handled by the famed Yakima Canutt, is considered the canine's finest hour.

Cody twice in his career stepped surprisingly out of character to play a cowboy - first in *Cimarron* (1931), the first western to win an Academy Award, then 44 years later in *Howard Zieff's* beginning celebration of old Hollywood, *Hearts of the West* (1975). Generally though, he was the standard feather-garbed Indian of few words, though he became noted



'Indians don't cry': Cody, centre, in *The Wild Dakotas*, 1956

for his insistence on authenticity, and served as a technical adviser on many of the films in which he acted, including *De Mille's Union Pacific* (1939), *North West Mounted Police* (1940) and *Unconquered* (1947).

Not without a sense of humour, he took part in three Bob Hope comedies, *The Paleface* (1948), *Son of Paleface* (1952) and *Alias Jesse James* (1959), the Abbott and Costello musical comedy *Ride 'Em Cowboy* (1942) and one of the best films to star the Bowery Boys, *Bowery* (1947) in which the boys went west to "prosecute for gold". Major westerns in which he featured included one of the first in a cycle of films treating the Indians sympathetically and as victims of mistreatment, *Delmer Daves's Broken Arrow* (1950).

Later in the Fifties, Cody and his wife, Ga Yeawas, hosted a television programme explaining Indian his-

tory and folklore. Ga Yeawas was a Seneca Indian (not a squaw, Cody was quick to point out) and the daughter of the anthropologist Dr Arthur C. Parker, the founder of National Indian Day. She was also the descendant of General Ely S. Parker, who served under Ulysses S. Grant, became the first Commissioner of Indian Affairs and was himself an Indian. The couple's two sons (one is now deceased) were champion Indian dancers, and Robert, who survives, performed his ritual dances before the press in 1970.

In 1970 a California advertising agency discovered Cody when devising a campaign for the group Keep America Beautiful, and they cast him as the "crying Indian", whose face, shedding a single, eloquent tear at the sight of a landscape polluted with garbage, litter and smoke, was first shown on Earth Day 1971, and quickly became a symbol

of the anti-litter campaign and a familiar image to Americans. "It was more than advertising," said Roger Powers, who was the agency's president at the time. "What we found - it was a stroke of luck - was a man who lived it and believed in it."

At first Cody had refused to do the commercial, arguing that "Indians don't cry", but Lady Bird Johnson persuaded him to do it (the tear was, in fact, glycerine). Cody spent the next 25 years making public appearances and visiting schools on behalf of the movement. "He galvanised so many people who really questioned whether individually they could make a difference," said Powers. A sequel to the commercial was produced in 1975 and a revamped version only last year.

In 1996 *The New Orleans Times-Picayune* caused something of a sensation by disputing Cody's heritage. Based on an interview with his

half-sister, baptismal records and other documentation, they asserted that Cody was a second-generation Italian-American from Louisiana. This was denied by Cody and generally disregarded by the public, who had come to revere the actor for his dedication to Indian affairs.

For his efforts on behalf of the American Indian he was presented with a scroll by the City of Los Angeles, and in his own private Mooshead Museum he housed an extensive collection of Indian artefacts, costumes, books and paintings. He wrote several books, including *How Indians Sign Talk* and a 1982 autobiography, *Iron Eyes: my life as a Hollywood Indian*.

TOM VALLANCE

Iron Eyes Cody, actor: born 3 April 1907; married Ga Yeawas (died 1978); one son, and one son deceased; died Los Angeles 4 January 1999.

Marcelle Ségol

THE ENGLISH term "agony aunt" is both discourteous and inexact. No one would ever have thought of applying it to Marcelle Ségol. She was the editor of the "courageur du coeur" rubric of the magazine *Elle*, a designation that is more poetical and more precise. When one wanted to avoid the word "editor", then she was known as "la dame de courageur du coeur", the lady who looked after the letters written by women explaining their problems and seeking advice, often on emotional matters.

Ségol had taken this responsibility from the foundation of the magazine in 1946 and had continued in this position for more than 40 years, retiring in 1987. She received, on average, some 20 letters a day, publishing only a very few of them but replying personally to them all. The total number must be staggering.

One of the great interests that surrounded her career concerns the changes that she lived through and which directly affected the position of women in French society. She witnessed nearly four decades in which a high-profile, militant feminism forced legislative reforms through successive governments and during which educational and social developments meant that, whilst the home and the family constituted part of a woman's life, they were no longer considered to provide her ultimate fulfilment.

Thus in its earliest years *Elle*, which aimed at the market of youngish, well-educated, middle-class women, was concerned with advising women on how to organise their domestic lives. Ségol gave advice that would make women more efficient. When women went out to work there was the problem of what to wear; there she recommended the wearing of trousers and pointed out that the same dress could be worn at work and then, with a little adjustment such as adding a piece of jewellery, for going out in the evenings. By the time she retired some 70 per cent of women aged between 25 and 49 worked outside the home.

Ségol always claimed that essentially the problems were the same. "My husband is deceiving me with our maid. What shall I do?" she was asked in the 1950s. "Sack the maid and see to it that the next one you appoint is totally unattractive" was the advice. "My husband is deceiving me with a woman in his office, at least, I think he is" was the quer-

ulous complaint. "You should go to his office and find out" was the reply. By the 1980s many women were working in offices. What if the woman was tempted to infidelity? The advice was what one would expect (what about the children?) but Ségol also had a typical comment. "When a man has an affair, everyone knows about it. But when a woman has an affair, it can be kept secret."

Couples living together without being married were talked about as living in sin, living beneath a broomstick, living in the chimney, or having been married in the 21st Paris arrondissement (which does not exist). Then the terms describing them became very respectable. "L'union libre". Later, about the time that Marcelle Ségol retired, people started to speak of "co-habitation".

She would remind her readers that such unions often led to marriage. And since, in all unions, whether legal or informal, the question of money arises, the woman complains that she does not know for sure how much the man earns. She was told that she should raise the matter with her man when in the presence of his male friends. He would not like his friends to think that he was earning less than he was. So the woman would learn the truth.

Radical feminist groups disliked *Elle* because it was too upmarket, giving space to the advertisement of expensive foods. And they particularly disliked Marcelle Ségol's column with its emphasis on how to be a good mother and wife, and looking tolerantly on girls and young women who thought wistfully about wedding dresses. But Ségol was not impressed with feminism. Women were simply shouting louder, she said.

Born in 1896, she had a diploma in mathematics which she never used. She married and was divorced in 1928. She worked as a secretary in a bank. In 1940 she was transferred to Lyons, but as she was Jewish the Vichy laws prevented her from going into journalism. She joined the Resistance.

Hélène Lazereff was already a friend of hers when, after the Liberation, she joined "the Czarina" in the creation of the weekly *Elle*. All that she wanted, she said, was to be useful and to be read with pleasure.

DOUGLAS JOHNSON

Marcelle Ségol, journalist: born Paris 15 May 1896; died Paris 28 December 1998.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

LUCIE: On Friday 2 October 1998, to Fiona (née Dickinson) and Gary, a precious daughter, Emily Sarah Dorothy, a sister for Sophie. With eternal thanks to the Harrie Birthright Centre, Chelsea and Westminster NICU and East Surrey SCBU. Home at last, 21 December 1998.

DEATHS

CLARINGBULL: Enid Dorothy Phyllis (née Lambert), of Brent Knoll, peacefully on 4 January in her 81st year. Beloved wife of the late Sir Frank, and mother to Roger and Margaret. Funeral service, St Andrew's Church, Burnham-on-Sea, Tuesday 12 January at 12 noon. Family flowers only; donations if desired for John Grooms Association for Disabled People to Messrs E.J. Harris Funeral Directors, 2 Cross Street, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, telephone 01278 78288.

KOENIGSBERGER: Otto, architect, peacefully died peacefully 3 January 1998 aged 90 years. Further enquiries to Leverton and Sons, telephone 0181-455 4992.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £1.50 a line (VAT extra).

OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Geoffrey Bayldon, actor, 75; Dr Tim Black, chief executive, Marie Stopes International, 61; Mr Alan Butcher, cricketer, 45; Miss Hazel Counsell, circuit judge, 68; Mr Hunter Davies, writer and broadcaster, 63; Mr Tony Elliott, founder and chairman, Time Out Group, 52; Sir Peter Graham QC, former First Parliamentary Counsel, 65; Mr Stuart Hampson, chairman, John Lewis Partnership, 52; The Right Rev Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans, 54; Mr Tom Kiernan, rugby player, 60; Mr Ian La Frenais, screenwriter and producer, 62; Mr Malcolm MacDonald, footballer and manager, 49; Miss Maureen Macdonald, former ambassador to the Holy See, 61; Mr Ross Norman, squash champion, 40; The Viscount of Oxford, Deputy Speaker, House of Lords, 65; Sir John Page, former Chairman, National Ports Council, 84; Mr Angela Smith MP, 39; Air Commodore the Hon Sir Peter Vaneck, former Lord Mayor of London and MEP, 77; Miss Helen Worth, television actress, 48; Mr

Will Wyatt, chief executive, BBC Broadcasting, 57.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Pope Gregory XIII, 1502; James Harrington, political theorist, 1611; Joseph Bonaparte, King of Naples, 1768; Eilhard Mitscherlich, chemist, 1794; Millard Fillmore, 13th US President, 1800; Sigismund Fortuna François Thalberg, pianist and composer, 1812; Robert Nicoll, poet, 1814; Heinrich von Stephan, politician and pioneer of the UPU, 1831; Titus Charles Constantine, conductor, 1835; St Bernadette of Lourdes (Marie-Bernadette Soubirous), 1844; Carl Laemmle, film producer, founder of Universal Pictures, 1867; Félix-Edouard Justin-Emile Borel, mathematician, 1871; Charles-Pierre Péguy, poet and socialist, 1872; Albert Alick (Al) Bowly, singer, 1899; Francis Jean Marcel Poulsen, composer, 1899.

Deaths: Catherine of Aragon, first wife of Henry VIII, 1536; Nicholas Hill, yardie, first English miniature painter, 1619; François de Salgnae de la Mothe-Fénelon, priest and writer,

1715; Allan Ramsay, poet, 1758; Daniel Nikolaus Chodowiecki, engraver and painter, 1801; Sir Thomas Lawrence, painter, 1830; John Hookham Frere, writer and poet, 1846; Thomas Waghorn, traveller, 1850; Sophia Louisa Jex-Blake, physician and women's rights champion, 1912; Henry Arthur Jones, playwright, 1929; Andrei Bely (Boris Nikolayevich Bugaev), novelist and poet, 1934; Nikola Tesla, inventor, 1943; Sir Arthur Keith, anthropologist, 1955; John Berryman, poet, 1972; Alvar Lidell, broadcaster, 1981; Dr Alfred Kastler, physicist, 1984; Trevor Wallace Howard, actor, 1988.

On this day: Glasgow University was founded, 1450; Calais, held by the English, was recaptured by France, 1558; Galileo discovered the four satellites of Jupiter, 1610; Jean-Pierre Blanchard, with Dr John Jeffries, crossed the Channel by balloon from England to France, 1785; the first national election in the US was held, 1788; the London General Omnibus Company started operating, 1825; the first woman was elected as foreman of a jury in Britain, 1921; a picture-by-wire ser-

vice was established between Britain and Germany, 1930; Princess Juliana of the Netherlands married Prince Bernhard at The Hague, 1937; *The Forsyte Saga* television serialisation began on BBC1, 1967.

Today is the Feast Day of St Aldric, St Canute Lavard, St Lucian of Antioch, St Raymond of Penafort, St Reinold, St Tillo and St Valentine of Rhaetia.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturges, "Portraits (I): Velázquez, *Portrait of Philip IV of Spain*", 1pm. **Victoria and Albert Museum:** Verity Wilson, "Setting the Scene: history and Henri Cartier-Bresson's photographs of China and Asia", 2pm. **British Museum:** Xanthé Brook, "Weld-Blundell Drawings: the creation of a fine collection", 11.30am. **National Portrait Gallery:** John Cooper, "William Cobbett and English Radicalism", 1.10pm. **Wallace Collection, London W1:** Joanne Hedley, "Portraits in the Wallace Collection", 1pm.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Anthony Layden, to be ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco. **Mr Charles James Bowring Kemp, Mr Andrew Gordon McDowall and Mr Michael Paul Yelton, to be circuit judges on the South Eastern Circuit.**

LINCOLN'S INN

The following have been elected Ordinary Benchers of Lincoln's Inn: Mr Gabriel Moss QC; Mr Edward Bannister QC; Mr Kim Lewison QC; Dr Michael Powers QC; Mr Edward Cousins; Mr Jonathan Crox.

HISTORICAL NOTES

SAUL DAVID

Prince's marriage not made in heaven

THE ROYAL marriage in 1795 between the Prince of Wales (later George IV) and his first cousin Princess Caroline of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel was never going to last. Not least because the handsome but dissolute Prince had only agreed to the union on the understanding that the Government would help him to pay off his enormous debts (then running at £630,000, or £30m today). In the event, so much of his married income was put aside by Parliament to service these debts that the residue (£50,000) was actually less than the sum he had been receiving as a bachelor (£78,000).

It hardly helped that his scheming mistress, Lady Jersey, had deliberately chosen for him a bride with "indecent manners, indifferent character, and not very inviting appearance, from the hope that disgust for the wife would secure constancy to the mistress". The plan worked admirably. When the betrothed cousins first met, three days before the wedding, the Prince did not bother to conceal his disappointment. Having spoken barely two words to the astonished Princess, he called for a glass of brandy and left the room.

This ungallant reception of

his young fiancée - at 26, she was, in fact, six years his junior - was largely due to her exceptionally low standards of personal hygiene. Lord Malmesbury the courtier sent to escort her from Brunswick, had noticed these deficiencies and had felt it necessary to advise her that the Prince expected "a long and very careful toilette de propreté" - which meant, at the very least, washing herself well "all over". But this sound advice had made only a "temporary impression" and she had since returned to her old ways.

The final straw came during the farcical wedding night when the Prince discovered that his wife was not a virgin ("there was no appearance of blood," he later told Malmesbury, and "her manners were not those of a novice"). He made love to her just three times, twice that night and once the next, before his repulsion got the better of his sense of duty. A daughter, Charlotte, conceived in the process, died 21 years later in childbirth, leaving him without an heir.

Perhaps the greatest obstacle to a successful marriage between the Prince of Wales and Princess Caroline was the fact that he already had a wife. Ten years earlier, he had secretly

married Mrs Fitzherbert, a beautiful Roman Catholic widow who had refused to become his mistress. Though valid in the eyes of the Church, the ceremony was in contravention of the 1772 Royal Marriages Act - which stipulated that none of the Royal Family could marry before the age of 25 without the King's consent. Moreover, it would have disqualified the Prince from becoming King since the Act of Settlement of 1701 prohibited the heir to the throne from marrying a Catholic.

When the Prince married officially in 1795, he was still in love with his first "wife". Five years later, by which time he had long been separated from Princess Caroline, he returned to Mrs Fitzherbert (though he would later abandon her too). But, like our own Princess of Wales, Caroline would not go "quietly". She too became the darling of the people, a propaganda tool with which the press could attack an increasingly hidebound monarchy. She too would die prematurely amidst suspicions - however groundless - of foul play.

Saul David is the author of 'Prince of Pleasure: the Prince of Wales and the making of the Regency' (Little, Brown, £22.50).

SOME OF us map out the world by reference to its libraries. Each has its particular character and use, something often indefinable but which no other institution can supply. Such as the colonial atmosphere of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, a splendid building, with a mere 300 members, and re-

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

folderol, n.

cently described in the *New York Times* as "not a place that brooks much folderol". It is a characteristic of the American language not

only to produce sassy fresh mintings but to revive such words. The OED last records it in 1881, and quotes Sala 20 years earlier as referring to "none of your *jal-de-roi* lavender books, but rigid, unmistakable shoes". Various spellings, it meant the meaningless refrain in songs in the 17th century, hence trifles or gewgaws.

I feel guilty about my cat's death

Penny's much loved 17-year-old cat, Snoopy, rescued from a motorway as a kitten, was ill, but her vet said he was not ready to die. When he finally collapsed, she took him to the surgery and another vet put him to sleep straightaway. She's now consumed with guilt, remembering the terrible look in the cat's eyes as it was done

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

If you're in guilty mode, and most people are after a death, you can pin your guilt on to almost anything. If Penny hadn't agreed to Snoopy being put to sleep, but waited till her own vet returned, she would have felt guilty that she hadn't had it done earlier. If she'd had it done earlier, she would have felt guilty that she didn't have it done later. If she'd let him die at home, she would have felt guilty on hearing that some cats suffer agonising fits as they die naturally. If he'd disappeared, she would have felt guilty that she hadn't kept him in. If he'd died at some great age, 20 or so, she would have felt guilty that she couldn't have done more to squeeze in another year.

Guilt is an odd emotion, when it comes to death, and people often feel it to get control over the event. It seems less painful to imagine they had some control than to realise that death just comes out of the blue and swipes our loved ones at random.

OK, she gave the go-ahead for Snoopy to be put to sleep. But he would have died anyway very soon, and compared to 17 years of a blissfully happy life with Penny, what difference does a day or two make – except, perhaps, that he was probably spared fear and pain in his last hours?

Research into the relationship between owners and pets shows that the owners of rescued pets can feel much worse when their pets die than the owners of pets that have been bought or given to them. The rescuing makes people feel far more responsible for their animals' lives.

They are aware that an animal has been abandoned once, and they never want to do the same to it themselves. They feel a bit like gods. No doubt Penny feels that if she hadn't taken Snoopy in, he would have died on the motorway, when in fact he might have led a jolly life as a wild cat, or been adopted by another, equally nice person.

Penny not only did right by having Snoopy put down, if she was advised to: she would, in fact, have done wrong to refuse. Vets do not bump animals off lightly.

Five years ago I took a wretched-looking skinny stray, humming with fleas and knotted fur, to my vet and asked for it to be put down, and he refused, saying there was absolutely no reason. For all we knew, he said, he enjoyed being a mucky old hobo, a Jack Kerouac of the cat world. When a vet says an animal should be put down, he means it.

Three things Penny should consider. Had Snoopy been a human and she a cat, would Snoopy have loved her enough to have done the same thing for her? And has she considered that the suffering she is feeling is what Snoopy would have endured had he been allowed to live any longer? It is agonising suffering as she does.

But perhaps it is better and more loving that she should suffer, rather than Snoopy. Finally, might not adopting another rescued cat be a suitable memorial to such a lovely friend? If this isn't anthropomorphising too much, might it not be what Snoopy would have wanted?

DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



READERS' SUGGESTIONS

You did nothing wrong. I write as a retired veterinary surgeon who must have put down thousands of cats in 30 years of practice, one of the last being our own much loved elderly Tom who had adopted us as a six-week-old kitten.

I am certain that Penny need not feel any guilt whatsoever at agreeing to having Snoopy put to sleep; cats do not have the same outlook on life that we have, and human ethics do not enter into their scheme of things. For instance, I am sure that Snoopy would have had no qualms over chasing and killing a mouse for fun and exercise.

Vets, in common with doctors, do differ fundamentally in their attitude to euthanasia but, having said that, I am sure that Penny will take heart, stop crying and sleep easy in the recall of all those happy times that Snoopy gave her.

JOHN DOUGH
Wellingborough, Northants

The cat had a happy life. Please don't punish yourself over the death of your little cat.

For many years I have been an RSPCA auxiliary and know the misery and suffering of abandoned cats. You gave Snoopy 17 years of happiness – many cats would wish for such luck. Remember you gave Snoopy the best of all gifts, a happy life.

S BANHAM
Harrow, Middlesex

Guilt follows bereavement. Penny has my heartfelt sympathy. I too recently lost my darling cat. We all feel guilt when we lose someone we love. It is a part of loving, and losing. But not to know the fate of a cat – that is true anguish.

ELIZABETH A PARRY
Warwickshire

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, We are close friends with a couple, and familiar uncle and aunt figures to their children. I know that my friend, their father, believes strongly that boys as well as girls should get hugs and kisses from their male elders. When we meet, my wife kisses the whole family. I kiss his wife, son and daughter, but leave him out in the cold, as it were, with a handshake, though I regard him no less warmly. What gesture of affection could I properly

extend to my friend without embarrassing either of us and making things worse?

Yours sincerely, Jon

Anyone whose advice is quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Please send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk – giving a postal address for the bouquet.

POETIC LICENCE

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD'S ENGAGEMENT TO SOPHIE RHYS-JONES BY MARTIN NEWELL



Congratulations are there sir?
Oh this is noble, this is good.
And decent, if not overdue
A long engagement? This is true

But never mind sir, nearer sound
Those carillons of summer bells
When sun will bed down in the lane
With hawthorn bloom for counterpane

To marry in your maytime sir
Is prudent, dignified, polite
And Berkshire sir, is very nice
Its lychgates made for throwing rice

Your Mother? Oh, I'm sure she's thrilled
Your father? Ah well he's your dad
Lacenic, gruff, as is his way
But privately relieved they'd say

And your intended, where she walks
May flowers spring up in her steps
A charming girl sir, made for love
For she is sanguine and above

Demure, yet still of sturdy stock
A gemstone hewn from humbler rock
Long-polished sir, we must allow
We hope she's cleared for service now

Then open-mouthed with joy may we
From small provincial chairs, stretch out
Twelfth-Night now past, the TV on
And yawning winter not yet gone

To celebrate, the duck fragments
The cork flies out, the cherry pops
The candle flares, the levee breaks
The swans emerge, the kraken wakes

And Mother Nature then, herself
As if she had announced the news
Blows breath of springtime from her mouth
(At least, in some parts of the south)

Five years is long to court and spark
A comely fire sir, now awaits
So many beacons round about
Began ablaze but sputtered out

But even if you get it right
One out of four's acceptable
It's we who pay and we who wait
To see such coals die in the grate

So quietly does it, heads down now
Be sure you don't let down the firm
It's mostly fools and railway loos
Become engaged – but they're not news

Racial pride and prejudice

Nick Griffin is the frighteningly plausible new front for the British National Party. Just don't call him a Nazi. By Nick Ryan and Nick Lowles

He is the very image of the country squire. There's the blazer and tie, the hint of distinguishing grey and an undisguised arrogance. Striding up and welcoming me as "mate", he appears cultured, charming and urbane.

There is little to suggest he is anything but what he seems. Nothing the families sitting about us would notice, too polite to register the odd comments about race, betrayal and Jewish conspiracies.

Yet later this year, Nick Griffin, 40, will spearhead the biggest push the far right has attempted in Britain. Waiting in the wings to take over leadership of the extremist British National Party (BNP), Griffin is looking forward to next June's European elections with relish.

"If we managed to produce one MEP," he says animatedly, "if you think of the fuss Derek Beckett (the BNP's first and only councillor) caused with one council seat on the Isle of Dogs, one MEP would be spectacular – an historical earthquake."

Not since council elections in Millwall in 1993, which led to Beckett's success, has the BNP stood a chance of upsetting the status quo. These could be the first national elections to be held under proportional representation, which usually favours smaller parties. And for Griffin, the spectre of a single electoral success, and even participation in the electoral process – with the TV broadcasts and promotions which come with it – is a Holy Grail.

If his plans are realised, 15 million Britons could receive BNP publicity material, as part of a free mail-out available to every party. They will be targeting "more graduates and small businesses", the kind of people that may once have voted for the Tory Party right-wing. Their inspiration is France's Front National which, led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, has some 15 per cent of the vote.

Griffin's quiet changes have begun to take shape gradually. British farmers started reading a new paper at rural protest marches. The British Countryman talked their language, of a "silent majority" fighting back to defend British agriculture. It supported the smallholders and spoke out against the bosses supposedly running the National Farmers' Union and the governments which had let them down over BSE.

"Some of the farmers are suicidal," he says, in his soft, educated tones. "They can see no



Griffin: critics say he's 'repackaging racism' *Newsteam*

hope and there's nothing they can do to regain some self-respect." He pauses for effect. "But we can provide that."

It isn't just farmers Griffin has been looking towards. Mothers on estates suddenly found campaigns springing up to sweep out paedophiles, and he also tried to forge an unlikely alliance with anti-road protesters. This was all part of Griffin's campaign to build up the BNP's profile and prepare the party for being "acceptable and electable".

However, beneath the talk of modernisation, Griffin is not all he seems. This is a man for whom the past will not disappear. While violence was happening on the streets of Millwall, he wrote about creating a strong political organisation with the ability to back itself with "well-directed boots and fists". He wrote: "When the crunch comes power is the product of force and will, not rational debate." Hardly the talk of a moderniser aiming for electoral respectability.

This is also the man who, as Vice-Chairman of the National Front, was a guest of Colonel Gaddafi – just after the American bombing of Tripoli (and just before Libya supplied arms to the IRA). The same man who tried to link up with Louis Farrakhan's militant black Islamic movement. The Nation of Islam – yet who tells me that Islam is a violent religion, bent on taking over this country, which must be resisted.

But Griffin is a man for whom the inconvenient past does not stand in the way of political ambition. "There were crazy periods in my past," he says. "But I hope I've learned from my mistakes." Such as "allowing my youthful enthusiasm for perfect ideas to run far beyond what's politically possible." The tone is smug, final.

Yet this is the man who last year wrote "Who are the Mind-benders?", about Jewish figures dominating the media; who associates with Holocaust deniers; believes the number of deaths in custody shows that black people are "more susceptible to being strangled than whites"; claims homosexuality is "fundamentally unhealthy" and would withdraw pension rights for gays.

Because these opinions are "vote losers", he says, they won't be presented to the public come election time. For example, the BNP's fundamental and most contentious policy is compulsory repatriation for non-whites. Griffin says he privately agrees with this line, but that he recognises it was one of the main obstacles to becoming "acceptable and electable". So the policy looks set to be diluted or even temporarily dropped for the elections.

To Gerry Gable, editor of the anti-fascist magazine *Searchlight*, Griffin is the classic wolf in sheep's clothing. "He may hang on about the farmers, but there are any number of parties out there representing such interests."

"What makes the BNP different is its uncompromising stance on racial nationalism. It is a way of repackaging the same racist ideas in more respectable form."

Griffin is characteristically confident: "The BNP is going to win Euro seats and you'll see BNP councillors established in local areas. We've got potential mass support in every part of the country."

And in a final parting shot, he adds: "You can pretend the BNP is Nazi, but when thousands of people continue to vote for it, you won't be able to label all of them as neo-Nazis. It just won't be practical."

CLASSIFIED

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- By a special resolution of the shareholders of the above-named Company approved by written resolution of the shareholders made on 31 December 1998 the payment of capital of £50,000 for the purpose of the Company acquiring an ordinary share of £1 each from P. L. Dixon was authorised.
- The amount of the permissible capital expenditure as defined by Sections 171 and 172 of the Companies Act 1985 was £50,000.
- The statutory declaration of the directors and auditors required by Section 173 of the said Act are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company situated at 173 High Street, Chesham, Bucks HP8 4JN.
- Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the period of five weeks immediately following 31 December 1998 (being the date of the above-mentioned special resolution) apply to the High Court under Section 174 of the said Act for an order prohibiting the payment.

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Contracts & Tenders

Contracts & Tenders

THE GATEWAY TO WORK

Private/Voluntary Sector Led Pilots

The Government has announced the piloting of the Single Work Focused Gateway (SWFG) to the benefits system for all working age claimants. A radical DIFE-DSS initiative to help people back into work rather than writing them off to life on benefit. The SWFG will provide a streamlined and efficient system in which there is a single point of access to welfare, and in which everyone who has the potential to work is provided with help to find it.

Wishing to tap into the expertise, innovation and efficiency that the private and voluntary sectors can offer, the Government is inviting bids, led by private and/or voluntary organisations, in four pilot areas:

Suffolk
North Nottinghamshire
Leeds
North Cheshire

Successful applicants will be expected to work in partnership with the Benefits Agency, Employment Service, local authorities and other relevant bodies to ensure a seamless and high quality service.

These pilots will start in November 1999. Contracts will be for up to three years with the possibility of extension for up to a further two years. Private/voluntary sector organisations which are interested in leading any of these pilots, or would like to find out more, are invited to express their interest now. The closing date for expressions of interest is 22nd January 1999.

A briefing pack will be despatched on request to interested organisations. This will provide further information about the pilots, details of the information events and of the procurement process. Information events will be held from mid-January 1999, when organisations can find out more, talk to others about what might be involved and explore how they may wish to work with each other collaboratively to deliver this initiative.

The briefing pack also sets out the information which must be submitted by organisations interested in proceeding in the competition, against which a shortlist will be established. The information requested in the briefing pack must be returned by noon 12th February 1999 in order to be considered.

To find out more and/or request a briefing pack, please contact Helen Carey at the address below:

Single Work Focused Gateway Project, Level 4 Mayfield Court, 56 West Street
Sheffield, S1 4EP. Tel: 0114 259 7070. Fax: 0114 259 7266.

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FILM

Play for yesterday

In *Little Voice*, adapted by Mark Herman from Jim Cartwright's West End stage hit, Jane Horrocks delivers a note-perfect repertoire of celebrity vocal impersonations. Close your eyes and you seem to hear the voices of Judy Garland, Shirley Bassey, Marilyn Monroe and Marlene Dietrich; yet the sound is all the work of the remarkable Horrocks, whose slender frame belies the mighty vocal powers she exercises here. She plays LV - Little Voice - a retiring northern lass who honours the memory of her dear departed dad by cherishing his favourite diva records and refusing to speak to her loud, sluttish mother, Mari (Brenda Blethyn). Then Mari's latest flame, a sleazeball agent named Ray (Michael Caine), overhears LV's bravura imitations and swiftly batters on her as his ticket to the big time.

Herman revisits the seam of bluff northern humour he mined in *Brassed Off*, and brings along his star, Ewan McGregor, to play a pigeon fancier who shyly courts LV. McGregor's role didn't exist in the play, and his presence - albeit dressed down in nerdy anorak and specs - is plainly an attempt to juice up the proceedings. Try as they might, however, the film-makers

THE BIG PICTURES



ANTHONY QUINN

LITTLE VOICE (15)
DIRECTOR: MARK HERMAN
STARRING: JANE HORROCKS,
MICHAEL CAINE,
EWAN MCGREGOR
97 MINS

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (PG)
DIRECTOR: HUMPHREY HAWKS
STARRING: HUMPHREY HAWKS,
LAUREN BACALL
100 MINS

can't make *Little Voice* any less downy and cramped than it looked on stage. This is drama still smeared with greasepaint, and chock-full of exits and entrances that scream theatre matinee. Twenty years ago, it would have made a so-so *Play For Today*; now it's touted as a great British film contender.

Horrocks is terrific when she's belting out the songs, but in repose her moon calf eyes and open mouth are too pathetic. Her northern Little-meism can pall, and she'll have to work hard if she's not to become her generation's Julie Walters. At least she doesn't unbalance the film in the way the stupefying awfulness of Brenda Blethyn's performance does - next to her caricatured harridan, the Fat Slags from *Viz* seem a model of decorum. Caine and Jim Broadbent fare better, and make their greasy-haired opportunism oddly attractive. Caine has fun snarling out a drunken, rancorous "It's Over", silencing a nightclub audience and sealing his showbiz career at a stroke. Yet their efforts, welcome as they are, have no greater purchase on truth than anything else in this sentimental folk opera.

There's also some memorable singing in *To Have and Have Not* (1945), courtesy of the 19-year-old Lauren Bacall: it was actually the voice of the young Andy Williams, but the way Bacall slouches at the piano while Hoagy Carmichael accompanies her on "How Little We Know" tells you all you need to know about being a star - was there ever a more self-assured debut in the Forties? Spotted by Howard Hawks's wife on the cover of *Har-*



A sentimental folk opera: Michael Caine and Jane Horrocks in 'Little Voice'

er's *Bazaar* in 1943, Bacall was taken up by Hawks, trained to deepen her voice and cast opposite Humphrey Bogart in this loose adaptation of a Hemingway story. Set in Martinique just prior to US involvement in the Second World War, Bogart's a seen-it-all boat captain who refuses to be drawn into the conflict between the ascendant Vichy government and the Free French. Until, that is, he crosses paths with Bacall's insolent cat-woman (named Slim, after

Mrs Hawks), who has the nerve to ask him (Bogart!) if he knows how to whistle.

The plot is essentially a re-run of *Casablanca*. There's the tropical setting, drowsy with corruption; there's the French patriot and his wife who need to get the hell out; there's the cynical American loner who insists on non-alignment but then finds his decency getting the better of him; there's even the bar-room pianist, though no equivalent of "As Time Goes By". The tone of *To Have and*

Have Not is altogether lighter, jaunty: the poignancy of unfulfilled love that haunted *Casablanca* is here replaced by the spectacle of a hard-bitten individualist at last finding a woman who's a match for him, though they keep each other at arm's length for most of the film. When Bacall tells Bogart she's been hired by the café proprietor to sing, he shrugs: "Sing? Well, it's his place." Later, she watches him carry an unconscious woman to a bed: "What are you trying to do - guess

her weight?" Miaoow! While it's Bacall's feline sexiness that transforms a dull drama into a romantic comedy, Bogart is tolerably wonderful, too, and looks more relaxed than usual. He's an enduring marvel of grace under pressure: as Kenneth Tynan wrote: "I don't think we can say Bogart was a great actor, but he remained, to the end, a great behavior." Like the moment here when a Vichy thug demands to know his nationality. "Eskimo," he replies, unblinking.

ALSO SHOWING

PSYCHO GUS VAN SANT (18) ■ THE SIEGE EDWARD ZWICK (15) ■ π DARREN ARONOFSKY (15) ■ ANGEL DUST SOGO ISHII (N/C)

GUS VAN Sant's *Psycho* is not a remake of Hitchcock's 1960 classic, but a reproduction. The distinction is significant, because a remake at least allows the possibility of differences in tone, perspective or interpretation, whereas a reproduction is bounded by its fidelity to the original. Van Sant's scene-by-scene copy exists in the same relation as a replica print to an old master: it's well made, it may even sell, but it remains basically unsatisfying.

Hitchcock's film presents Van Sant with two distinct problems. In that it is both a one-off and absolutely part of its time. The casting of Anthony Perkins in the original was key, as Vince Vaughn, great in *Swingers*, is too much the strapping country boy to play a disturbed loner like Norman Bates. Anne Heche is more comfortable in the

Marion Crane role, yet she also has the most difficult job of all: acting like someone who knows nothing of the iconic world of *Psycho*. Hitchcock's film has colonised a patch of our dream life, and of our movie-film language - it seems impossible that Heche doesn't realise that as you don't stop anywhere called the Bates Motel, b) you don't ask Norman about his mother, and c) you certainly do not step into that shower.

Saul Bass's austere credits and Bernard Herrmann's ominously busy violins can be replicated with impunity, but cleaving to Joseph Stefano's original screenplay lands the 1999 version in terrible trouble. Can anyone nowadays utter the words "A boy's best friend is his mother", as Norman does to Marion, and not risk being jeered out of the room? At the end, the passage of nearly 40 years

becomes apparent when the doctor examining Norman explains to the cast in painfully prolix detail what's happened in Norman's mind - a speech reproduced verbatim from the 1960 script. No doctor nowadays would make the concept of schizophrenia sound quite so unusual, indeed exotic. When Van Sant does try to update - Norman, eye against a peephole, masturbates as he watches Marion undressing - it feels plausible but over-explicit.

Hitchcock fans can relax, because nothing can diminish his *Psycho*. This version isn't a sacrilege - it's just pointless.

The Siege is a slam-bang action thriller about terrorism that's intended to make American blood run cold. Islamic militants have infiltrated New York. Denzel Washington heads an FBI task force to

smoke them out, backed up by a CIA operative (Annette Bening) who has contacts with the terrorists. Both are helpless to prevent the bombing of a Brooklyn bus and a first-night theatre crowd on Broadway. Once a suicide bomber takes out the FBI's headquarters at One Federal Plaza, it's a case of cometh the hour: cometh the man. It's Bruce Willis, of course, playing a hawkish army general who declares martial law on the city. Tanks roll down the streets, Brooklyn is sealed off and hundreds of young Arab-American males are herded into makeshift detention centres.

The director, Edward Zwick, knows what incendiary stuff he has on his hands, and occasionally digresses to pour oil on the troubled waters: he casts Tony Shalhoub as an Arab-American FBI agent whose

son is interned during the round-ups, and raises the spectre of US guilt over CIA training of Islamic terrorists. But this is overwhelmed by the hysteria of the film's central premise: there are strangers among us who would bomb our homes and kill our children. *The Siege* made certain Arab-American groups hot under the collar on its US release in November, and it's not hard to see why. The movie's unspoken feeling is that, in the land of the free, some are still freer than others.

Darren Aronofsky's directorial debut, *π*, sounds like a contradiction in terms: a thriller about mathematics. Yet the 29-year-old has parlayed this unpromising subject into something genuinely offbeat and original. A reclusive maths prodigy, Max Cohen (Sean Gulleotta), is on the cusp of a momentous discovery.

Based on his credo that everything can be represented and understood through numbers, Max thinks he can discern a pattern in the fluctuations of the stock market, though he has enemies from within and without. Plagued by migraines, he is also persecuted by a Wall Street syndicate and a group of Hasidic greybeards who believe he has unlocked the secret name of God.

Shot in high-contrast black and white, the film keeps us guessing as it burrows deeper into Max's psyche: is he getting closer to the truth, or to a complete mental crack-up? Aronofsky has a fine eye for detail, suggesting patterns of correspondence in the whorls of a seashell, the leaves on a tree, even the cream in a cup of coffee. I'm not sure whether his film makes any sense at all, but it's at least brave enough to take an

audience's intelligence for granted - an achievement in itself nowadays.

There's not much coherence to be found in *Angel Dust*, a Japanese thriller in which a beautiful analyst (Kaho Minami) is seconded to the Tokyo police force, baffled by a series of rush-hour murders on the underground. The victims are all young women, the method is a lethal injection, and the chief suspect is a psychiatrist who specialises in deprogramming brainwashed cult loonies. Sounds intriguing, for sure, but director Sogo Ishii muddies an already nebulous plot with dream sequences and gender ambiguities.

Adam Mars-Jones writes about remakes on page 10

RUSHES

AS IF the Australian shoot for Terrence "Chuckmeister" Mallick's forthcoming *Second World War* flick *The Thin Red Line* weren't gruelling enough, spare a thought for the crew and cast members who had to share a production with those wacky japesters Woody Harrelson and Sean Penn. The pair took it upon

themselves to provide some comic relief with a series of practical jokes. Harrelson kicked off the gags by lining Penn's helmet with freshly chewed gum.

Penn's frankly bizarre retaliation was to have a couple of thousand "Woody Harrelson Day" posters printed up, inviting locals to a day in celebration of the actor. Doubtless to Sean's

amusement, a few even turned up. Within hours, Harrelson's rapier wit had dreamt up a riposte. Penn received a night-time phone call from Nick Nolte, a fellow co-star, who told him that he was banged up in a local jail and needed to be bailed out. Penn arrived at the jail to see Nolte behind bars, crying "Help me!" In a particularly inspired

flourish, a "prison guard" then pretended to shoot Nolte's "cell mate". How they must have laughed! Penn's revenge proved to be equally subtle. On the way back from the "jail", he quietly instructed the driver to take a detour before throwing Harrelson out of the car and cheerily telling him to find his own way home.

one of the decade's true originals

"ingeniously paranoid"

A FILM BY DARREN ARONOFSKY

"blinding drum 'n' bass soundtrack"

π

"fascinating"

★★★★★

faith in chaos

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EMPIRE

LITTLE VOICE

15

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Michael Caine BEST ACTOR

Brenda Blethyn BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

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If there's one thing we know about film it's that remakes are naff. Nonsense. Remakes are cinema in its pomp. By Adam Mars-Jones

Old enough to be her father: Anne Heche in the new version of 'Psycho' faced by the original killer, Anthony Perkins

Photomontage: Himesh Patel

If Van Sant was also thinking of the Japanese tradition of preserving monuments, not by trying to make them timeproof, as we do in the West, but by tearing them down and rebuilding them every few decades, he was no less wise to keep quiet about it while he made his pitch. What secured the film its go-ahead must have been the sheer disreputability of remakes in general. Given the prevailing assumptions about remakes, it's hard to blame the people who gave the green light for not noticing that a faithful copy of a box-office smash could be a radical experiment in disguise.

coming right towards camera will have people running for the exits.

All this is a way of saying that *Gun Van San's* shot-for-shot re-enactment of the 1960 classic re-emphasizes the original's visceral nastiness, and is an act of questioning love. Normally we praise a remark for adding something to the original premise — as Nora Ephron's new *Have Pencil* starts from a much more plausible basis for sustained anonymous communication, e-mail, than its 1940 source picture, *The Shop Around the Corner*. But with the new *Psycho* the additions are few

If you want was also turning to the Japanese tradition of preserving monuments, not by trying to make them timeless, as we do in the West, but by tearing them down and rebuilding them every few decades, he was no less wise to keep quiet about it while he made his pitch. What secured the film its go-ahead must have been the sheer disreputability of remakes in general. Given the prevailing assumptions about remakes, it's hard to blame the people who gave the green light for not noticing that a faithful copy of a box-office smash could be a radical experiment in disguise.

BOB McCABE - EMPIRE

AN ENEMY THEY CAN'T SEE.



A NATION UNDER SIEGE.



A CRISIS THEY CAN'T CONTROL.

AND **BRUCE WILLIS**

[illegible]

STARTS TOMORROW AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Paranoia minus *The X-Files* plus tuna sandwiches equals π . By Roger Clarke



Darren Aronofsky: not a paranoid schizophrenic

Philip Meech

Most critics have mentioned Lynch's *Eraserhead* and *The X-Files* as influences on π , though Aronofsky himself abhors both comparisons. *Eraserhead* is by intention static, he says, whereas π is a "boiled

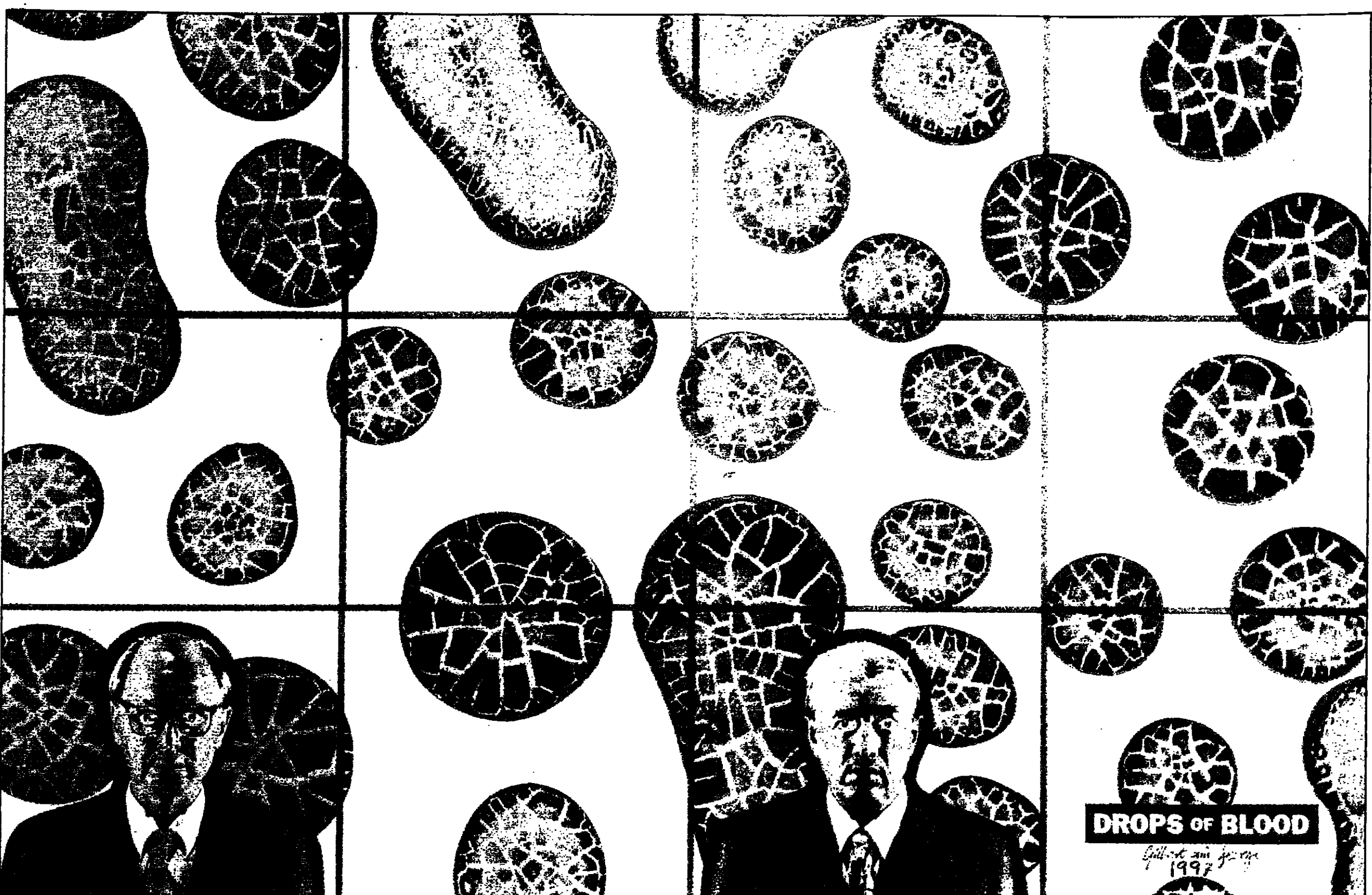
He makes a face. Hollywood's taming process, it would seem, has a way to go.

Anthony Quinn reviews π on page 9.

صبرنا من الاله

So
lars-Jones

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'Drops of Blood' (1997) 'People have said that our pictures are difficult to look at. But they are much, much harder to make'

Gilbert & George do Naples

Their art has succeeded in offending everybody. Well, nearly. One city has taken the odd couple in its stride. By Michael Bracewell

It was a damp, mild night, early in December last year, and the rising clamour of voices at the private view of Gilbert & George's *New Testamental Pictures* in the Museo di Capodimonte, in Naples, had just been jerked to instant silence by what sounded like – and what turned out, in fact, to be – a high-pitched male scream accompanied by the thump of someone landing rather heavily, having just jumped several feet into the air.

Moving as one through the record-breaking crowds, half-a-dozen camera crews, ravenous for outrage, swung around to capture the source of the incident – which turned out to be two young Italian artists who had just created a performance piece directly in front of Gilbert & George, entitled *Gigolo*.

Whether *Gigolo* was an artistic tribute to Gilbert & George, or some form of protest at either the artists, the gallery, or both, was unclear. But in the momentary hush that had followed *Gigolo*'s blood-curdling howl and thud of hefty boots on varnished parquet, you could hear, quite distinctly, the courteous warmth of George's voice – a virtual parody of Britishness – as he answered one performance with another. "Thank you very much," he said, in the polite tones of a rather grand relation receiving a box of After Eights as

a Christmas present. "That was very nice." And Gilbert, smiling, agreed.

In order to understand the cultural significance of the Museo di Capodimonte, and the matching significance of such an institution hosting a major exhibition by Gilbert & George, you have to imagine London's National Gallery housed in Hampton Court and situated in a port city such as Liverpool or Newcastle. For the

next few months, *The New Testamental Pictures* by Gilbert & George, with their titles like punk novellas – *Shit On Us*, *Spunkland*, *Plus Heads* – will be exhibited beside an Italian national collection of Renaissance treasures, in a former royal palace that commands a view of a depressed but defiantly beautiful coastal city.

"But we have always loved Naples very much, since we first exhibited here at Lucio Amelio's gallery in the Seventies," says George. "It's extremely exotic," says Gilbert, with a winning, if enigmatic, grin. "But do you know, this is the first time we

have exhibited in a museum and not been asked to withdraw at least one of the pictures. It's because Naples is a port, and they are used to everything here. They won't be shocked. They are open to all kinds of ideas."

Standing side by side at their private view, receiving with unwavering smiles and deferential half-bows a steady stream of slightly hesitant but increasingly devoted well-wishers, Gilbert & George look as though they have just stepped down from one of their pictures. Which, in many ways, they have. For a little more than 30 years, since they first donned their armour of matching suits, they have maintained their public and artistic image in an epic of self-portraiture. Over the past two years, in their "Fundamental" and "Testamental" series of pictures – which have yet to be seen in Britain – they have posed, naked or besuited, against magnified images of their own bodily essences of blood, sperm, sweat, urine and faeces, in the photographed structures of which they claim to see the maps and mystical calligraphy of their own existence and human destiny. They are probably the only artists who have literally put their "everything" into their own work. "People have said that our pictures are difficult to look at," says George. "But they are much, much harder to make."

And because of the uncompromising imagery in their pictures, which has been con-

strued by some critics to offend just about everybody, Gilbert & George have sometimes been described as reactionary monsters. "But when people come looking for the bodies of murdered teenage boys," says George, "we tell them that they may dig anywhere in the garden – providing that they don't dig in that corner over there!"

If the test of modern celebrity is the speed and efficiency with which you enter the mainstream of popular culture, then the sheer scale of Gilbert & George's fame is not to be underestimated. The usually sedate world of the *Antiques Roadshow* was thrown into momentary disarray when someone popped up with an extremely rare work by George, made prior to his meeting with Gilbert. The television expert designated to assess the all-important insurance value of the piece had to inch his way around not only the precise figure, but also the reasons why this George person has become so important. Explaining the significance of subsequent works by Gilbert & George, with titles such as *Blood on Spunk* and *Shit on Spit*, to an audience primed to appreciate the curves of a Chippendale commode, proved testing. Similarly, Gilbert & George have been the subject of a lengthy sketch by French and Saunders, while their performance on *The Last Resort*, dancing to "Bend It Shake It", is one of the most requested re-

peats from the show. More recently, Virgin Records' new year sale has been advertised with window-display posters based on both the format and the magnified images of blood used by Gilbert & George in their "Fundamentals" pictures: even the slogan "Bloody Big Sale" is based directly – right down to the typography – on Gilbert & George's iconic title, *Bloody Life*. Gilbert & George, as a cultural concept, uphold the

most as important as their art – and their art is very important indeed – is that they have survived as a couple. They are even preparing for their deaths. I think, and that is a proof of some immense depth to what they are to one another."

Later, at a dinner held in their honour at a restaurant on the waterfront overlooking the Bay of Naples, Gilbert & George sat side by side, as always, dispensing a warmth and cheerfulness that seemed to inspire the entire restaurant of bemused Italian families and distracted lovers. Around midnight, they rose to sing "Happy Birthday" for one of their guests, conducting the crowd with their upheld glasses of wine. In some magical way, the dinner itself had become a performance – a happening. Finally, a rumour circulated that an exhibition by Gilbert & George might be the opening event at a major new gallery in Milton Keynes. This, given their ability to outrage both the public and the art world, would be bound to turn a few heads.

"We found out that there is only one piece of graffiti in Milton Keynes," said George. "and it simply says 'Vicar Says Yes'." As ever, Gilbert & George are giving nothing, and everything, away.

'Gilbert & George: New Testamental Pictures', Museo di Capodimonte, Naples. To 7 February

The sheer scale of
Gilbert & George's
fame is not to be
underestimated

Their performance on 'The
Last Resort', dancing to
'Bend It Shake It', is a
much-requested repeat

The trouble with being earnest

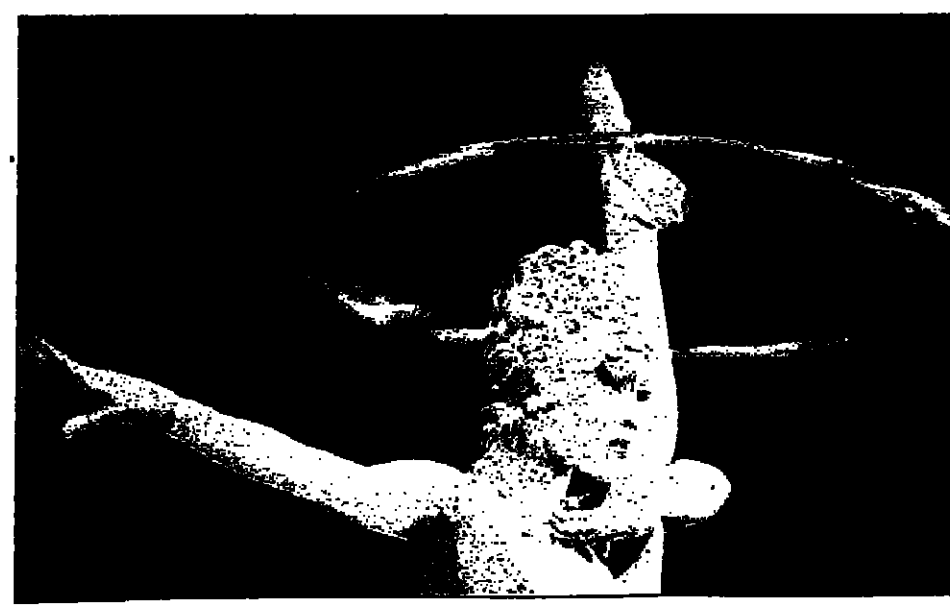
IF YOU have booked a holiday next century to go and watch an inter-collegiate gymnastics competition in post-apocalyptic Smolensk, for pity's sake cancel it now. For a fraction of the price, a near-flawless simulacrum is available for viewing at the Albert Hall, going under the name of *Alegria*.

The circus troupe Cirque du Soleil is now an international touring multitranchise, so that what seemed sizzingly avant-garde in mid-Eighties Quebec has acquired the anonymous patina of an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. We no longer expect elephants in a circus, but we might expect rather more astonishing feats of human physical skill than this uneven show provides.

Not that there are no wonders. A beautiful elf in a luminous green leotard does quite remarkable things with steel hula-hoops, spinning one around her toes, casually held above her head, while others

snake round her waist and shins. And a bevy of tumbling acrobats (who, sporting unisex camouflage-netting bikinis, come over alarmingly like extras from *Mad Max 3*) perform synchronised bouncy falls and a snowboarding competition's quota of mid-air spins. But a man on a trapeze, in a spangly Spiderman outfit from which somebody has cruelly ripped the sleeves, does little more than swing about a bit.

The less-than-amazing Cube Man, meanwhile, pulls himself up on suspended rings while his toes carry, er, a big cube. A "Polynesian artist" spins a few flaming sticks around. At one point he gets a burning stick and then lights the other end. He then points at both ends of the stick, adopts an inscrutable



'Alegria': the avant-garde thrill of a Lloyd Webber musical
Laurie Lewis

down played nervously with a candle. But the clown, too, were uninspired, staying with hoary favourites such as a big ball down the trousers. One wannabe clown epic had a vulgar finale involving powerful lights and a wind machine, clearly catering for tastes dulled by Hollywood cinema.

The gigantism of the show's presentation, indeed, dwarfed the really good acts, which needed a more intimate setting. But *Alegria* did boast one unequivocally fine element: the music, an alternately melancholic, humorous and adrenaline-pumping blend of French tango, jazz and curiously affecting power balladry. Only in Francophone hands can cheesy string synthesisers still sound even vaguely cool nowadays.

STEVEN POOLE

To 24 January. Booking: 0171-589 8212. A shorter version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

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EDUCATION

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Bring it all back home

School project work has a lot going for it as a teaching method, but it is also a font of parental cheating, rampant copying and a resourcing nightmare. By John Kirkaldy

It was Sunday and a time of domestic bliss until... "Oh," says Doris, "Jim's A-level project is due in on Thursday." His folder revealed three bits of scruffy paper. There have been condemned men's breakfast menus with more writing on them. There then followed a time I can only equate to the German counter-offensive on the western front in March 1918. Bodies loomed up every now and then through the chaos. Panic and despair were everywhere. Only one figure kept calm amid the debris, like Field Marshal Haig, unaware of the total catastrophe that he had created. It is good to have a teenager to remind you of the really important things in life at a time like that: keeping up with the Australian and American soaps; rigging the girlfriend to update her on events; and gazing at your spots for long periods in the mirror.

As a teaching method, project work has a lot going for it. We all want our children to be self-motivated, independent learners. In the last 30 years, project work has come to dominate our classrooms, so in consequence an ever-larger percentage of GCSE and A-level work is devoted to it.

Yet I find myself becoming more and more uneasy about the whole thing. For a start, it places an ever-increasing load on teachers. In old-style education you prepared one lesson; in project work, you virtually prepare as many as there are in the class. Resourcing it is something of a nightmare. If everybody in the class does the same project, then the resources are under an impossible stress. If everybody does something different, then the teacher must find resources to suit each individual need.

For students, project work is a mixed blessing. For the bright and committed, it can be a really exciting opportunity. One of my students filmed and wrote up the experience of being in the Fastnet yacht race. She got sponsorship from Kodak and the loan of a special camera. Not only did she create a wonderful opportunity and gain a good final grade, she also got local and national press coverage. The experience looked good on a UCAS form and it has done well for her at interviews ever since. But most adolescents have a tendency to put things off to the last moment, and project work can mean a lot of wasted time. Group work can mean that one or two pupils tend to do most of the hard graft, while the rest merely tread water.



The temptation for parents to give a helping hand with project work gets ever more real as pressure mounts

Phil Dye

Assessing project work has been one of the biggest growth areas in education. An army of moderators, verifiers and assessors (internal and external) now exists. A simple task, such as giving feedback to an individual student, can take just five minutes, yet it may take up to two hours to write up as part of the qualification.

Endless boxes must be ticked. (Were you aware of your body language when you gave feedback? Were you aware of the student's body language when you gave feedback? Did you take into consideration the student's race, gender, religion and sexual orientation when you gave feedback?)

I am also increasingly aware that I am often not assessing the student alone, but the student and parents.

As the percentage of marks for project work increases and the competition to get into most universities grows, so the temptation to give more than a helping hand gets ever more real. Most parents will deny it and they all know that, in the long term, it is doing students no real favours. But when they are looking down the barrel of a failure or a poor grade, then they often succumb. Those pious statements that students sign to say that the work is all their own often have the sincerity of Hitler's remarks that this was his final territorial demand. Aiding and abetting project work is becoming one of the secret crimes of middle-class Britain.

Then there is new technology. No library can even remotely rival the Internet for information. But, I hear

you cry, surely the schools have computers? Of course they do, but getting near one for any long period of time with a project imminent is like joining the queue for a lifeboat on the Titanic.

And this ignores the problems of vandalism, breakdowns, other classes' use and players enjoying card games on the screen. Those students who have access to a computer at home have a massive advantage over those who don't.

New technology has also encouraged something that teachers have largely tried to ignore. The copying of other's work or adapting large chunks grows apace. When it involves other schools and other areas, it is impossible to control. I have heard of a project that has been done by three students already. I sus-

pect that by the time Bill Gates launches Windows 2006, it will be possible to type in "Soll Erosion in Stoke Poges" and press a key and out will come the finished project, complete with WH Smith carrier bag to take it to school.

The truth is that not even Superman or Superwoman could regulate the vast piles of project work piling up for assessment all over the country. For the eight years that I tutored an A-level I used to tie up my projects in a special granny knot. On seven occasions I got them back with the knot untied and the marks unchanged. One year the board lost every single project, so I have no means of knowing.

We need to untie a lot more knots, if projects are to have any real meaning in education.

Local control is best



JUDITH JUDD

Many local authorities now talk about 'partnerships' with heads and governors

A READER wrote recently enclosing a cutting from *The Independent* for 6 October, 1988. The piece, by Peter Wilby, one of my predecessors and now the editor of the *New Statesman*, made a prediction: "Local education authorities will be extinct by 1998."

Wilby, of course, was wrong. Today, the north of England education conference begins in Sunderland, where representatives of the nation's local education authorities are assembling for their annual jamboree. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, will be there, proof enough that this is no marginal gathering of educational dinosaurs.

Local councillors were hated by the last government. This one is more ambivalent but the Prime Minister's advisers believe that real schools reform is impossible until they disappear. So how have authorities managed to fend off their enemies? One of their strongest cards is their opponents' difficulty in finding a replacement. If they didn't exist, should we need to reinvent them?

Kenneth Clarke, the former Conservative secretary of state for education, who tried harder than most to find a way of cutting local authorities out of the educational action, wanted to do just that. He considered regional bodies that would have no elected members and would be firmly under Whitehall's control. The solution was rejected as "too socialist", an objection which the present Government would presumably share.

Today, the opposition to local education authorities from people such as Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, is based on the idea that schools would run their own affairs, buying in services they needed from commercial agencies. Mr Woodhead has suggested that local councils may create "a dependency culture" among schools.

But authorities' first line of defence is that they are not what they were. During the last decade, they have undergone a transformation. The Conservatives' decision to

allow schools to opt out of local authority control has acted as a spur. Many councils have stepped back from their nannying role and now talk about "partnership" with heads and governors.

As Mr Blunkett will point out tomorrow, there are exceptions. A report last year on Calderdale education authority painted a picture of councillors who immersed themselves in the trivia of schools' daily life while failing to notice the Ridings school's descent into chaos. Also castigated was the London borough of Hackney, where councillors squabbled so much that they neglected local children's interests.

The answer, however, is not to abolish local education authorities. Even the Conservatives, who considered freeing all schools from local authority control, had civil servants working on (unpublished) plans for how to prop up small primaries. In short, they acknowledged that some schools would need the support of something very like a local authority.

This Government has sensibly accepted that local councils should have a role in planning school places and working out a fair admissions system. The alternative is a parental free-for-all in which the weak go to the wall.

A central source of advice and information - available if it is wanted - also makes sense at least for some schools.

Peter Wilby admitted in his 1988 piece that prediction-making was dangerous, but added: "Nobody reads old newspaper cuttings." He was wrong about that, too. But I remain undeterred. I predict that in 2009 local education authorities will still be alive and well. If they are not, Mr Hyman of Bushey Heath will no doubt let us know.

THE VIEW FROM HERE

It is hard to foresee a time when schools become irrelevant



ALAN SMITHERS

However necessary some shift from trust to accountability may have been, it has transformed the teacher's role

THE FIRST column of the last year of the millennium is a good time for reflecting back and looking forwards. As the Queen's Speech acknowledged, in education the immediate challenge facing the Government is to ensure that there are sufficient high-quality teachers. November's Green Paper shows that, nudged by the Treasury's "something for something" policy, it is putting its faith, for the time being, in performance-related pay.

But there are influential voices claiming that, soon, teaching will have been so transformed by information and communications technology that only a small specialist cadre of teachers will be required, capable of being recruited without difficulty from the increasing pool of graduates. In an extreme form, the argument is that schools themselves will become irrelevant.

It is remarkable, however, how little schools have changed since Roman times, in spite of the invention of the printing press, radio, television and the computer.

There are some who would suggest that this betrays a woeful lack of vision. But for me it underlines the enduring purpose of schools - to help the young to participate fully

in their society and make sense of three-score-and-ten years on a lump of rock. Experience has shown that this is best achieved through actively coming together in the presence of someone who is able to pass on understanding to others.

It is likely, therefore, that there will be a continuing need in the new millennium to attract large numbers of good graduates to become teachers, people who must also be capable of using the latest technology to best advantage. There is no doubt that the many changes imposed on education in the last decade have failed to make this task any easier.

Not so long ago, the teacher-training institutions were able to attract nearly 70,000 applicants for some 50,000 places; nowadays there is a struggle to fill 30,000 places. In part, the previous popularity of the profession was because teacher training was seen as an alternative form of higher education, but it was also because teaching was regarded as a vocation. People were drawn to it by a sense of public service and, once qualified, they were free to teach what they wished, how they wished.

But over the years, in some cases, liberty lapsed into indulgence. Without any national checks of pupil

to see how the schools were doing; and a funding mechanism, which allowed decisions about spending to be taken as close to the classroom as possible.

New Labour has adopted these reforms as its own, and since coming to power has concentrated on providing the pressure and support to give them effect. This has often taken the form of setting targets, publishing and commenting on outcomes, and financially rewarding success.

However necessary some shift from trust to accountability might have been, it has transformed the teacher's role. Teachers are now subject to a new managerialism, in which they are continually having to account for themselves in ways which they feel do not always capture the true purposes of education.

In the past, many were drawn to teaching by the sense of being able to spend their lives in a worthwhile way, helping others. The salary may not have been very good, and the status may have been ambivalent, but they felt that they were able to take the important decisions for themselves.

Much of that autonomy has been taken away, without any compensatory attractions. In fact, berating teachers was to become one of the main ways of

stabilising the system, so that it would accept reform.

This has left the Government with the urgent problem of coming up with a balance of potential satisfactions, which will make teaching an attractive profession in the new millennium. The Green Paper does not tackle this fundamental issue, and its version of performance-related pay will further undermine autonomy and security.

Paradoxically, the Government could achieve more by attempting less. It should have the courage to stand back and allow the new General Teaching Council to become a genuinely self-regulatory body. This would establish teaching as a true profession, alongside medicine and law.

But, above all, now that a necessary correction has been made, it should consider how the pendulum can be moved back more towards trusting teachers. With the guarantees of the national curriculum, tests and inspections, the Government should devise an equitable way of funding schools, and let them get on with it.

The writer is the Sydney Jones Professor of Education at the University of Liverpool

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The future is female

The law is no longer a male-only preserve, but it will take time to change its culture. By Linda Tsang

Solicitors have recently turned to spin doctors to try to get rid of the public perception that they are all middle-aged, male money-grubbers. But that image may already be about to undergo a radical change.

At the same time as revealing that it had retained a public relations adviser to improve the image of solicitors, the Law Society of England & Wales has also published its latest statistics on trends in the profession which show that the majority of solicitors under 30 are women.

And it is not just at the lower end of the profession that women are making their mark. If there is no challenge to their present positions, next year there will be women presidents at the head of the major professional organisations: Kamlesh Bahl at the Law Society, which deals with more than 95,000 solicitors in England and Wales; Diana Kempe, QC, will be president at the International Bar Association; and Martha Barnett at the American Bar Association. The Bar Council had its first woman as chairman in 1998 - Heather Hallett QC.

Some women have been bemused by the coverage of firsts in the legal profession. Diana Parker, who became the senior partner of Withers this month - and the first and youngest woman senior partner in a City law firm - sees the publicity surrounding her election as flattering, if misplaced. But she warned: "Après moi le déluge."

Being first is only the beginning. An article in this month's *Legal Business* picks out "Forty wonder women in private practice", detailing the experiences of 40 leading women solicitors who are "spectacular performers with real client-pulling power".

Many of those women have encountered unenlightened attitudes. Frances Hughes, corporate partner at the City law firm Slaughter & May, says: "I was told years ago by one of my clients that he would fire me if I ever got married." She did get married, and the client continued to give her work, although he stipulated that there must be no children. Hughes now has a child and still works for the same client. Another partner at the same firm, a leading EU and competition lawyer, Laura Carstensen, became a partner in 1994 when she was a single parent and pregnant with her fourth child.

'Any good business should want to retain its best people - both men and women'

Not all of them want to be superwoman, but many are trying to improve matters for those coming up the ladder after them. Diana Good, a leading commercial litigation partner at Linklaters, is the first woman to be elected on to the firm's management committee.

Good set up the firm's flexible working policy for partners; Linklaters is the only firm to have such a formal policy. She says that although such schemes are not a panacea, they are a good start. "Any good business should want to retain its best people and accommodate different working practices, and that applies to both men and women."

Making an impact is not restricted to the legal sphere. Judith Mayhew, an employment lawyer at City law firm Wilde Sapte and chair-

man of the policy and resources committee at the Corporation of the City of London, is tipped to be a likely candidate for Mayor of London. She is also director of education and training at the firm. She agrees that women are less likely to have an impact at the junior level, "but if, in five to 10 years' time, they are not becoming partners in line with the 50-50 intake, then that will obviously be an issue that will have to be looked at sooner rather than later."

Women make up 25 per cent of the Bar - where, as recently as 10 years ago, there were still sets with no women members - and 7 per cent of the silks. The barrister Josephine Hayes, former chair of the Association of Women Barristers, says that "the future of the legal profession at the lower levels is that it will go on being male unless there are radical changes in the culture and attitudes about what type of legal system we want and the qualities needed for that legal system."

Despite the latest statistics, Hayes considers that the culture can be changed only if more women solicitors get partnerships. The Bar is, she says, more problematic because chambers are more insular. Further up the ladder, a judicial appointments commission would help change the view that judges are appointed on the basis of whom they know - ie other men.

At that highest level, a recent survey by the International Bar Association showed that women are under-represented in the judiciary in all jurisdictions - fewer than 25 per cent of the world's judges are women. England and Wales lag behind the rest of Europe, with women making up less than 10 per cent of the judiciary - Hungary and the Czech Republic have the highest numbers of women in the judiciary,



Diana Good of Linklaters has set up a flexible working policy to help more women become partners at the firm. Phil Meech

with 69 per cent and 63 per cent respectively. In England, there is only one woman in the Court of Appeal, Lady Butler-Sloss. There are seven women in the High Court, compared with 97 men.

With more women entering the profession, the statistical likelihood is that there will be more women

partners, silks and judges. Anne Rafferty QC says that "the legal profession should be merit-based and gender-irrelevant, and if it isn't, it should be".

Diana Good says: "It will not be exclusively female, but it will be more female than it is at present - and it may be more fun if it is."

ESSAY COMPETITION

THE DEADLINE for this year's essay competition on "Law Beyond the Millennium" is 15 January 1999. The winner will win a scholarship to the College of Law. Entries should be sent to The Independent/College of Law

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Address: Head office is in Holborn Viaduct, central London. There are also offices in Peking, Brussels, Chicago, Saigon, Hong Kong, Moscow, New York, Paris, Prague, Singapore and Tokyo.

Ambience: Employees are loyal: more than 90 per cent of trainees are still with the firm two years after joining.

Vital statistics: There are more than 1,600 employees globally, including 165 partners and 840 lawyers.

Lifestyle: Trainees have a high chance of getting to work abroad at some stage: six-month secondments to international offices are common. Trainee solicitors are given their own budget for social events, and there's also an intermingling with employees from other law firms. There are plenty of sports teams: football, hockey, netball and squash, among others. The company is keen to provide trainees with the chance to get involved in pro bono work, including opportunities with Voluntary Service Overseas, the homeless, environmental charities and prisoners on Death Row. The banking litigator Ian Gardener, for instance, is currently planning to navigate his way across six countries to raise awareness and money for Motivation, a

charity that trains people in developing countries to make and use their own wheelchairs.

Easy to get into? No. The company is hugely popular with applicants, with up to 2,000 applying for 80 contracts. You'll need at least a 2.1, plus good communication skills, a genuine interest in law and business, and plenty of energy, initiative and motivation. There are 70 work experience placements available during the Christmas and summer holidays. Successful applicants get an allowance of £200 a week. For more information, see the company's website: www.lovellwhitedurrant.com.

Glittering alumni: Peter Gerrard CBE, who became the first general counsel of the Stock Exchange; Graham Pimlott, director of Barclays Bank.

Pay: Trainees start on £21,000, which rises to £24,000 after 18 months. There's an annual salary review each May.

Training: Those taken on by the company are put through four six-month "seats" in differing practice areas: there is broad training in corporate and litigation sectors, and there's the opportunity to get experience in banking, intellectual property, mergers and acquisitions, employment, environmental and insolvency cases as well. Trainees also undergo an individual programme of legal training.

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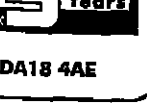
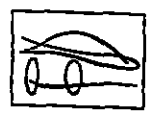
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THE

NEW FILMS

THE ACID HOUSE (18)
Director: Paul McGuigan
Starring: Stephen McCole, Kevin McKidd, Ewen Bremner

A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh, *The Acid House* plays out in the down-and-dirty landscape of some of Edinburgh's less salubrious areas and darts with brio between a range of moods and tones. Story number one, "The Granton Star Cause", is a playful riff on Kafka's *Metamorphosis* as layabout wastrel Boob (McCole) gets conjured into a fly by the vengeful, boozing God (Maurice Roëves) whom he meets down the pub.

Story two, "A Soft Touch", comes on as a kind of social-realist Special Brew opera, as its affable, emasculated hero (the brilliant Kevin McKidd) finds himself cheated on by his missus and menaced by the tattooed thug who lives upstairs. Story three, "The Acid House", is both the most ambitious and the least coherent, an indiscriminate what-if scenario which has Ewen Bremner's rave kid switching places with a newborn bairn. In it, the revelations of an acid-trip are cross-cut to the trauma of birth, yet a clever conceit stays unfulfilled, buried under a ton of showy hallucinations. Overall, though, debut director Paul McGuigan (who trained as a stills photographer) turns *The Acid House* into a bit of a triumph: adapting his style well to the shifting landscape of Welsh's tales and rustling up a film that's less poised and populist than *Trainspotting*, but more earthy, edgy and intense, too. A cracker, all told.

West End: *Gate Notting Hill*, *Odeon Camden Town*, *Plaza*, *Ritz Cinema*, *Virgin Fulham Road*, *Virgin Haymarket*, *Warner Village West End*

SITCOM (18)
Director: François Ozon
Starring: Evelyne Dandry, François Marthouret, Marina de Van
Someone ought to introduce François Ozon to a good editor. The debuting French film-maker is

clearly a man of talent, but in *Sitcom* he lets his ideas maraud madly off the leash. This scatter-gun satire on middle-class mores takes abundant pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family (*mère, père, fils et fille*) - setting a rat loose in the home and intersecting an implicitly queer and subversive vein to the increasingly fraught shenanigans. The result is sharp, funny and savage one moment, over-heated and indulgent the next, and arrives heavily touched by the influence of Luis Buñuel and John Waters. Ozon's still, formal framing strikes a nice balance with the craziness contained inside.

West End: *Barbican Screen*, *Clapham Picture House*, *Curzon Soho*, *Virgin Chelsea*

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)
Director: Jonathan Frakes
Starring: Jonathan Stewart
A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over, *Insurrection* hits the cinemas stuffed with in-the-know gags, ribboned and bowed with reliably cheesy art-design and effects work, and wrapped up in rather more cornball romance than we're used to.

The yarn is nominally about Patrick Stewart's do-gooding captain tangling with villainous F Murray Abraham, who has hatched a scheme to take over an Eden-like planet of perpetual youth. The trouble is that the whole *Star Trek* phenomenon has become less a story now than a series of self-reflective gestures. *Insurrection* takes no real risks with the format; it simply navel-gazes for a while, gives lip-service to the regulars and idles its way along to the climactic explosion.

West End: *ABC Baker Street*, *ABC Tottenham Court Road*, *Elephant & Castle Coronet*, *Empire Leicester Square*, *Hammersmith Virgin*, *Odeon Camden Town*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Odeon Marble Arch*, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *Ritz Cinema*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Fulham Road*, *Virgin Trocadero*

Xan Brooks

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Truman Show (15)
Peter Weir's ingenious and unsettling fantasy is, in the end, an escape movie - in the case of Jim Carrey's Truman Burbank, it is breaking out of the round-the-clock TV docu-soap that is his own life.

Out of Sight (15)
This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh knocks spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

My Name is Joe (15)
All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic (right).

The Dream Life of Angels (18)
Erick Zonen's fine debut draws its strength from the personalities of Isa (Eloïse Bruchez) and Marie (Natacha Regnier), whose close friendship comes alive amid the drab environs of Lille.

Antz (PG)
Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast and starring Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Allen's best work in a while.

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Love Upon the Throne
Comedy Theatre
The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent. Hilarious and oddly touching. To 9 Jan

Martin Guerre
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds
It's third time lucky for this much-rewritten Boubli! Schenberg musical (right). In Conall Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, magnificent show. To 13 Feb

Mr Puntilla and His Man Matti
Albery Theatre
A well-deserved transfer for this Almeida hit. Comedy duo The Right Size are inspired casting for Brecht's witty fable about a split-personality landowner. To 9 Jan

Angela Carter Cinderella
Lyric, Hammersmith
This feast of inspired seasonal silliness and visual magic by Angela Carter has lashings of drag and double entendres, plus the best mice to be found anywhere on a West End stage. To 9 Jan

A Month in the Country
Swan Theatre, Stratford
Ireland's finest living dramatist, Brian Friel, adapts Turgenev's proto-Chekhovian comedy. To 20 Feb

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Charlotte Salomon
Royal Academy
"Life? Or Theatre?" Salomon's life in pictures. Her 405 raw gouaches tell the story of the German Jewish girl's haste before Auschwitz - an expressionistic opus in three colours. To 17 Jan

Grindling Gibbons
Victoria & Albert Museum
The best chisel-work of the great 17th-century English woodcarver, who made intricacy and the abundance of nature his trademark. To 24 Jan

Chris Offili
Whitworth Gallery, Manchester
This 1998 Turner Prize-winner is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, Afros and black icons, and incorporating elephant dung. To 24 Jan

Goya: The Disparates
Maidstone Museum & Art Gallery
Goya was deaf, ill and in his seventies when he produced his last series of etchings. Mysterious in intention, it is a world where life is folly, men fly off on wings into darkness. To 23 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
This century exhibition (right) gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan



TOM LUBBOCK

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: *ABC Tottenham Court Road*, *Rio Cinema*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Chelsea*, *Virgin Trocadero*

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)
Seventeen-year-old Samira Makhmalbaf's precocious debut stages a true-life recreation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. A luminous and extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. West End: *Metro*, *Renoir*

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)
The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted wails. West End: *Odeon Camden Town*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *Plaza*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Trocadero*

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA (PG)
Pat O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. West End: *Curzon Mayfair*

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS (18)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: *ABC Swiss Centre*

ELIZABETH (15)
Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of another female figurehead - this time it's Queen Elizabeth I - struggling to gain purchase in a male world. West End: *ABC Canton Street*, *Curzon Soho*, *Curzon Minima*, *Odeon Mezzanine*, *Phoenix Cinema*, *Rio Cinema*, *Virgin Fulham Road*

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)
Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, to probe a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. West End: *ABC Tottenham Court Road*, *Clapham Picture House*, *Hammersmith Virgin*, *Notting Hill Coronet*, *Odeon Camden Town*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Odeon Marble Arch*, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *Odeon West End*, *Ritz Cinema*, *Screen on Baker Street*, *Screen on the Green*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Chelsea*, *Virgin Fulham Road*

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)
This gaudy swashbuckler gallops at full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics justifies for purchase amid clattering action set-pieces. West End: *Clapham Picture House*, *Odeon Camden Town*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Odeon Leicester Square*, *Odeon Marble Arch*, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *Ritz Cinema*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Fulham Road*

THE MIGHTY (PG)
Peter Chelsom's *The Mighty* treads through familiar coming-of-age country with its tale of two outcast kids (one fat, the other sickly) in a storybook Cincinnati. It's all a bit stilted and a tad predictable, though there's a glimmer of *sad showing* through. Sharon Stone and The X-Files' Gillian Anderson cope well in what basically amounts to supporting roles. West End: *Screen on the Hill*, *Virgin Fulham Road*, *Virgin Haymarket*

MY NAME IS JOE (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: *ABC Canton Street*, *Curzon Soho*, *Virgin Haymarket*

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)
Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing which sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate performers. West End: *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Trocadero*, *Warner Village West End*

OUT OF SIGHT (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: *Empire Leicester Square*, *Odeon*

Kensington, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *Phoenix Cinema*, *Rio Cinema*, *Ritz Cinema*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Chelsea*, *Virgin Trocadero*

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)
The Parent Trap catches Disney re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heart-warmer as this spry, cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) trying to get their parents (Natascha Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back together. West End: *Clapham Picture House*, *Hammersmith Virgin*, *Odeon Camden Town*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Odeon Marble Arch*, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *Odeon West End*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Chelsea*

A PERFECT MURDER (15)
With Hollywood awash with dumb re-makes, the news that Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* was to be rehashed did not bode well. But this is not bad at all. Michael Douglas stars as the cuckolded city shark who blackmails an artist into killing his mistress wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. This is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: *Warner Village West End*

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U)
Sublime cinema. It's a fast-talking romantic comedy of course, but there's nothing silly or trivial about it. George Cukor's movie has a strange and melancholy heart and Katharine Hepburn's unsatisfied heiress sheds real tears. West End: *Curzon Mayfair*, *Renoir*

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)
In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as *The Ten Commandments* by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: *ABC Baker Street*, *ABC Tottenham Court Road*, *Clapham Picture House*, *Elephant & Castle Coronet*, *Empire Leicester Square*, *Hammersmith Virgin*, *Odeon Camden Town*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Odeon Marble Arch*, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *Ritz Cinema*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Fulham Road*, *Virgin Trocadero*

RONIN (15)
Rather than adding value, John Frankenheimer's 40 years as a feature director lend an air of mackerled resignation to his latest movie, which stars Robert De Niro. Thrill-an-hour drifts out. West End: *Odeon Mezzanine*, *Virgin Trocadero*

RUSH HOUR (15)
Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's star in this hit-and-miss affair. West End: *Hammersmith Virgin*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Odeon Marble Arch*, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *Plaza*, *Ritz Cinema*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Trocadero*, *Warner Village West End*

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)
Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon star in the latest comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly (previous repulsive but shamelessly funny crimes against humanity: *Dumb and Dumber* and *Kingpin*). The film is basically a soft-centred romantic comedy of the kind which drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. The gags never amount to more than vulgar icing on an unexceptionally bland cake. West End: *ABC Piccadilly*, *Odeon Mezzanine*

THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: *Plaza*, *Virgin Trocadero*

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)
Along comes Christmas and out comes *What Dreams May Come*. Robin Williams perfects a lopsided slumper as the dead chappie who lights out to a cod-Impressionist heaven, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide bride. West End: *ABC Baker Street*, *ABC Shaftesbury Avenue*, *Clapham Picture House*, *Odeon Camden Town*, *Odeon Haymarket*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Odeon Marble Arch*, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Chelsea*, *Virgin Trocadero*, *Warner Village West End*

CINEMA WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET
(0870-902 0418) @ Baker Street
The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
What Dreams May Come 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC PANTON STREET
(0870-902 0404) @ Piccadilly
Circus The Apple 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
The Boys 4.15pm, 8.45pm
Fire 2pm, 6.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0870-902 0403) @ Leicester Sq.
Buffalo 66 3.40pm, 8.40pm
The El 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
The Governor 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm
It's a Wonderful Life 1.05pm, 6.05pm
La Vie Revee des Anges 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm

ABC SHAFESBURY AVENUE
(0870-902 0402) @ Leicester Sq.
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
What Dreams May Come 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Antz 4.45pm, 9.45pm
Enemy of the State 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm
The Prince of Egypt 2pm, 7.55pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm

BARBICAN SCREEN
(0171-638 8891) @ Barbican
The Mighty 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Sitcom 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA
(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Sq.
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 7.45pm, 10.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 3323) @ Clapham
Common Enemy of the State 6.20pm, 9pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.15pm, 4pm
The Parent Trap 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
The Prince of Egypt 3.30pm, 6.30pm
Siccom 7.30pm, 9.30pm
What Dreams May Come 6.45pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Dancing at Lughnassa 4.15pm, 9pm
Philadelphia Story 2pm, 6.30pm

CURZON MINIMA
(0171-369 1723) @ Hyde Park
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 7.45pm, 10.45pm
6.40pm Fire 4.35pm, 9pm

CURZON SOHO
(0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm)) @ Curzon
Elizabeth 4pm, 9pm
The Mighty 1pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm
My Name is Joe 3pm, 9.15pm
Siccom 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET
(0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
The Prince of Egypt 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE
(0990-888990) @ Leicester Sq.
Out of Sight 12.05pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm
The Prince of Egypt 10.45pm, 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 11pm, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill
Gate The Acid House 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

ICA CINEMA
(0171-930 3647) @ Charing Cross
Gay Sex in the Mainstream: Talk with Paul Burstall and Alden Shaw 7pm
Sex/Alife in LA 7pm, 9pm

METRO
(0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly
Circus The Apple 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
The Boys 4.15pm, 8.45pm
Fire 2pm, 6.30pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET
(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill
Gate Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(0870-050007) @ Camden Town
The Acid House 11.50am, 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm
Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm
The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 8.35pm
The Prince of Egypt 11.45am, 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 12.15pm, 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm, 11.15am, 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm, 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm

ODEON KENSINGTON
(0870-050007) @ High Street
Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm, 2.40pm, 5.10pm, 7.40pm, 10.10pm, 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 5.10pm, 7.40pm, 10.10pm, 12.40pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE
(0870-050007) @ Leicester Sq.
The Mask of Zorro 11.40am, 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(0870-050007) @ Marble Arch
Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm
The Mask of Zorro 11.45am, 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 8.55pm
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.15pm
The Prince of Egypt 11.55am, 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm
Rush Hour 9.50pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm
What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.45pm

ODEON MEZZANINE
(0870-050007) @ Leicester Sq.
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
Les Misérables 3.30pm, 8.30pm
Mulan 1.40pm, 3.50pm
Ronin 5.55pm, 8.15pm
Snake Eyes 1.05pm, 6pm
There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(0870-050007) @ Swiss Cottage
Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm, 2.40pm, 5.10pm, 7.40pm, 10.10pm, 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 5.10pm, 7.40pm, 10.10pm, 12.40pm

ODEON WEST END
(0870-050007) @ Leicester Sq.
Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm, 8.25pm, 9.10pm
The Parent Trap 12.05pm, 2.45pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA
(0171-494 4153) @ Piccadilly
Circus Everest 12.35pm, 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm
7-Back: Back to the Creacretos (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

PHOENIX CINEMA
(0181-444 6789) @ East Finchley
Elizabeth 6.15pm
Left Luggage 1.45pm, 4pm
Out of Sight 8.55pm

PLAZA
(0990-888990) @ Piccadilly
Circus The Acid House 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm
Babe: Pig in the City 12.45pm, 1.30pm, 5.30pm
Rush Hour 8.40pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

ACTON PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE
(0181-886 0066) @ Park Royal
Antz 5.40pm, 7.40pm
Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 3.30pm
Blade 9.30pm
Enemy of the State 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 9.40pm
The Mask Of Zorro 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm
The Parent Trap 3pm, 6pm
The Prince of Egypt 3pm, 6pm
Rush Hour 2.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.20pm, 9.10pm, 9.50pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
What Dreams May Come 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm

BARNET ODEON
(0870-050007) @ High Street
Barnet Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm, 3pm, 3.45pm, 8.30pm
The Mask Of Zorro 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8pm
The Parent Trap 1pm, 3pm
The Prince of Egypt 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm
Rush Hour 9pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
What Dreams May Come 5.30pm, 8.15pm

BECKENHAM ABC
(0870-9020412) @ Beckenham
Ham Junction Babe: Pig in the City 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm
The Parent Trap 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.25pm, 3.40pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
What Dreams May Come 5.55pm, 8.30pm

BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD
(0181-303 1550) @ Bexley
Babe: Pig in the City 11.20am, 2.30pm, 5.30pm
The Mask Of Zorro 12.00pm, 3pm, 6pm
The Mighty 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.25pm
Mother 11.05am, 6.05pm
Naseeb 2.35pm, 9.45pm
Out Of Sight 6.50pm, 9.35pm
The Parent Trap 11am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm
The Prince of Egypt 11.20am, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8pm
Rush Hour 1.50am, 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 11am, 12noon, 1.30pm, 2.15pm, 3.55pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.10pm, 8.50pm, 9.35pm
Majid 11.35am, 6.25pm
What Dreams May Come 11.05am, 9.30pm
Zakham 11.25am, 6.20pm, 9.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm

BROMLEY ODEON
(0870-050007) @ Bromley
North Enemy of the State 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm
The Mask Of Zorro

THURSDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

TWO IN A ROW to stay awake for World of Pub (11pm R4), a blockishly droll series by the up-and-coming Tony Roche, has been given a well-deserved longer slot. The basic gag remains unchanged: Dodgy Phil comes up with daft schemes to get folk into Barry and Garry's eternally doomed boozer - tonight, a millennium makeover is decided upon. Edith Piaf (right) is listed

as a special guest: enough said. It's followed, inconspicuously, by an adaptation of Geoffrey Hill's slim magnum opus, Mercian Hymns (11.30pm R4) - the series of prose poems revisiting the life of the eighth-century overlord, Offa: "King of the perennial holy-groves". Simon Russell-Beale is among those savouring every lush syllable.



DOMINIC CAVENDISH

12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 Hardest Game. Harry Carpenter has been the voice of boxing for nearly 50 years - until he retired as BBC television's boxing commentator in 1992. In this series, he reflects on the sport from the 1950s to the present day.
8.00 Inside Edge. Rob Bonnet and the team investigate the issues that affect the sporting world.
9.00 Hoops. Fat Freddy M rounds up the latest news from the British basketball scene, and footballing legend Ian Wright talks about his passion for basketball.
9.30 Sportshow. Trixie Rawlinson presents the sports consumer programme, including sporting investigations and news of all the latest sporting gadgets.
10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Incl 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World. 1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Rickitt. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 3.00 Mark Griffiths. 5.00 - 6.00 Nick Bailey.

VIRGIN RADIO (125.197-126.0kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbott. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Mark Forrest. 10.00 Janet Lee Grace. 1.00 James Merritt. 4.30 Jeremy Clark.
WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Composer of the Month. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Focus on Faith. 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Assignment. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO
6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Anna Rieburn. 4.00 Peter Deely. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 6.00 James Whale. 12.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

grammes of previously unheard treasures from 'Music Restored's 1998 recordings. This week's selection includes Spanish polyphony from Chapelle du Roi; solos by fortetianist Ronald Brautigam, harpsichordist Milti Mayerson and theorbo player Rolf Lislevand; and a Bach aria sung by countertenor Robin Blaze.
10.45 Night Waves. As Alfred Hitchcock's classic 'Psycho' is remade shot by shot by Gus Van Sant, Paul Allen examines the legacy of Norman Bates and the value of imitation. Plus the eagerly awaited European opening of a major retrospective of another master of atmosphere, the American abstract artist Mark Rothko.
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Saint-Saens. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS. In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg.
9.45 Serial: The Vanished World. 8.35 Postscript. Five specially commissioned dramatic monologues that combine fiction and a news story. 4: 'Abide with Me'. By John Metcalf. (R)
9.55 London Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Colin Davis. Sibelius: En Saga. Beethoven: Symphony No 1 in A.
10.00 Music Restored. Lucie Skeaping and Chris de Souza introduce the first of two pro-

3.30 The Melting Pot.
3.45 This Sceptred Isle.
4.00 Word of Mouth.
5.00 The Material World.
5.30 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 The Warriors.
7.00 NEWS. The Archers.
7.15 Front Row. John Wilson with the arts programme, including a reassessment of the screen's favourite sharp-talking, soft-hearted tough guy - Humphrey Bogart, who was born 100 years ago.
7.45 Under One Roof. The last of three five-part dramatisations from the Michele Hanson stories, with Janet Maw, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White. (4/5)
8.00 NEWS. Case History. Professor Roy Porter reconsiders the performance of leading political figures of the 20th-century by looking at their health. Reagan and Brezhnev. In the 1980s, the world's superpowers were led on one side by someone who could not always remember the names of the cabinet, on the other by a man who called Margaret Thatcher Mrs Gandhi just because an aid had given him the wrong cue card. (R)
8.30 The Political Euro. The European single currency has been launched this week. But it is not just about money. It is a major political step towards European integration. Gordon Brewer assesses the implications.
9.00 NEWS. Testbeds. Plastics for Everything - Including TV Screens. In the first of a ten-part

series, Vanessa Collingridge explores the technologies that will shape our future.
9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg. Melvyn Bragg and guest discuss ideas and events which have influenced our time.
10.00 NEWS. The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana. Juliet Stevenson reads Emile Zola's novel (4/5).
11.00 NEWS. World of Pub. Tony Roche's four-part comedy series returns, with Dodgy Phil and another of his schemes to fill the pub with punters. Special guest Edith Piaf. See Pick of the Day.
11.30 Experimental Feature: Mercian Hymns. See Pick of the Day.
11.45 It's a Funny Old World.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: The Restraint of Beasts.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz LW)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News. Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE (693.909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

THE AMERICAN medical series ER (9.30pm Sky 1), may be overhyped and over here, but it is one of the few television dramas that makes for consistently rewarding viewing. Emigrating from North London to Africa, it was one of the things that a woman in a recent Cutting Edge documentary was most worried about was missing. As it enters its fifth season, the series shows no sign of waning. After all, what other mere TV

show could keep hold of a movie star such as George Clooney (right) if it didn't maintain seriously high standards? In the first episode of a new series, we see the whirlwind of action through the eyes of a newcomer to the Emergency Room, eager young medical student Lucy Knight. As you might expect, she is thrown into the deep end without a lifebelt. An old trick, deftly executed.



JAMES RAMPTON

SKY 1
7.00 Count Duckula (98723). 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (5448).
8.30 Hollywood Squares (7491). 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (9137). 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (98904). 11.00 Gullif (9822). 12.00 Jerry Jones (9845). 1.00 Mad about You (4826).
1.30 Jeopardy (2951). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (97804). 3.00 Jerry Jones (1145). 4.00 Gullif (2320). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (3649). 6.00 Married with Children (791). 6.30 Dream Team (833). 7.00 The Simpsons (437). 7.30 The Simpsons (3945). 8.00 America's Funniest Home Videos (3026). 8.30 World's Wildest TV (233). 9.00 Friends (29484). 9.30 ER (9013). See Pick of the Day. 10.30 Veronica's Closet (8633).
11.00 Dream Team (9829). 11.30 Earth: Final Conflict (5373). 12.30 Highlander (5456). 1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (533088).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (554423). 7.15 World Wrestling (61668). 8.15 Sky Sports Centre (446204). 8.30 Racing News (446204). 9.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (30128). 9.30 Youth on Sky Sports (61533).
10.00 Figure Skating (9137). 12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (4745). 12.30 Basketball (54587). 2.30 Total Sport (552). 3.00 Watersports World (4203). 4.00 Pool (5919). 5.00 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (5549). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (228). 6.30 Football League Review (5533). 7.00 What a

Weekend (6378). 7.30 Futbol Mundial (5945). 8.00 Spanish Football (7858). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (84452). 10.15 Youth on Sky Sports (60945). 10.45 Trans World Sport (49113). 11.45 Sky Sports Centre (78216). 12.00 Football Review (519). 1.00 Spanish Football (7135). 3.00 World Sport (7471). 4.00 Sports Centre (658875). 4.45 Close.
SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (865694). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (835037). 7.45 Racing News (440444). 8.15 Sky Sports Centre (86587). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (86587). 9.00 Fish TV Fishing News (519). 9.30 Spanish Football (7135). 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (658875). 4.45 Close.
EUROSPORT
7.30 Rally: Total Granada Dakar 99 (20216). 8.00 Alpine Skiing (18649). 9.00 Skiing (6861). 11.00 Rally (6826). 11.30 Ski Jumping (3811). 1.00 Snowboarding (8820). 2.00 Alpine Skiing (9229). 3.00 Tennis (5842). 5.00 Alpine Skiing (8945). 6.00 Tennis (75736). 7.00 Football (284216). 9.30 Rally (70281). 10.00 Alpine Skiing (7753). 11.00 Trial (27129). 12.00 Rally (82243). 12.30 Close.
UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (438229). 7.30 Neighbours (834267). 7.55 EastEnders (10053). 8.30 The Bill (868484). 9.00 The Bill (855736). 9.30 The House of Eliot (250838). 10.30 Angels (854820). 11.00 Dallas (897375). 11.55 Neighbours (9882303). 12.25 EastEnders (767007). 1.00 Juliet Bravo (404858). 2.00 Dallas (125126). 2.55 The Bill (16533). 3.25 The Bill (681200). 3.55 EastEnders (988303). 4.30 Angels (108728). 5.00 Al Capone Great and Small (550397). 6.00 Dynasty (802804).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsline 6.30 (281).
BBC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 London except: 2.55 Dotman (886823). 3.30 Dochda Mor (Oakley Doherty) (915804). 6.00 News (128). 6.30 Reporting Scotland: Weather (281).
BBC1 WALES
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Wales Today (281). 2.25 Jones BBC News 24 (7948224).
ANGLIA
As Carlton except: 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (614755). 1.00 Up-Fit (490378). 1.35 Home and Away (6554804). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (200113). 3.20 Anglia News and Weather (254397). 5.00 Shortland Street (351246). 6.00 Home and Away (947281). 10.00 Super Structures (947281). 11.00 Forensic Detectives (915797). 12.00 UFO: Down to Earth (608699). 1.00 Connections 2 by James Burke (867888). 1.30 History's Turning Points (673779). 2.00 Close.

5.05 ITV Nightscreen (1901885).
CENTRAL
As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (614755). 1.00 Echo Point (60842). 3.20 Central News (254397). 5.00 Shortland Street (351246). 6.00 Home and Away (397). 6.30 Central News and Weather (408397). 6.55 Lifetime (861820). 7.30 My Mum's a Knockout (533). 10.30 Central News (275736). 1.00 Jobfinder (8345427). 5.20 Asian Eye (4473021).
HTV WALES
As Carlton except: 10.25 This Morning (6298303). 12.15 HTV News (920007). 1.00 Shortland Street (490378). 1.35 Home and Away (6554804). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (200113). 3.20 HTV News (254397). 5.00 A Country Practice (351246). 6.00 Home and Away (947281). 6.25 Wales Tonight (286133). 7.30 Somewhere in Wales - St Fagans at Fifty (533). 10.30 HTV News (275736). 12.10 Jerry (514953). 12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (734088).
1.25 Film: The Super (916393). 2.55 Box Office America (708231). 3.25 Cyber-Murder (8674804). 3.55 Murder, She Wrote (800359). 4.45 Judge Judy (3479786).

3.20 Westcountry News (254397). 4.40 Worst Witch (650156). 4.45 Worst Witch (188245). 6.00 Westcountry Live (64007). 7.30 Stately Homes (633). 10.30 Westcountry News and Weather (275736). 12.50 Public Morals (6414).
The Jerry Springer Show (734088). 1.25 Film: The Super (916393). 2.55 Box Office America (708231). 3.25 Cyber-Murder (8674804). 3.55 Murder, She Wrote (800359). 4.45 Judge Judy (3479786). 5.05 ITV Nightscreen (1901885).
YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 12.20 Calendar News and Weather (614755). 1.00 Home and Away (60842). 2.15 Emmerdale (653484). 3.20 The Bill (855736). 9.00 Calendar News and Weather (275736). 9.30 Calendar News (649). 10.30 Calendar News (649). 10.30 Calendar News and Weather (275736). 11.30 Calendar News and Weather (275736). 12.30 Calendar News and Weather (275736).
TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 12.20 North East News and Weather (254397). 5.40 News: Weather (248587). 5.55 North East News (95858). 6.00 North East Tonight (64007). 7.30 Mag-

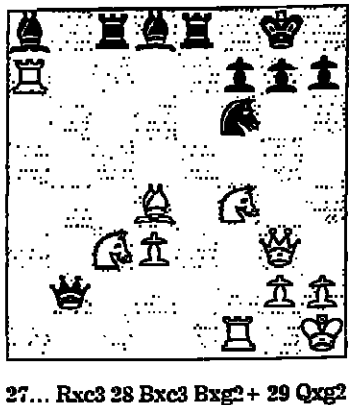
neto North (533). 10.30 North East News and Weather (275736).
S4C
As Channel 4 except: 9.00 The Cosby Show (6721804). 9.30 Film: The House on Telegraph Hill (61398007). 12.00 Caroline in the City (614918). 12.30 Sesame Street (35736842). 1.00 Planned Plant (9223945). 1.30 Film: The African Queen (9998223). 4.00 Fit-to-One (5643484). 4.30 Ricki Lake (5643484). 5.00 Planned Plant: Used 5 (45882718). 5.30 Countdown (5643484). 6.00 Newyddion (8334940). 6.30 Hano (9500307). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (1158754). 7.30 Newyddion (8334940). 8.00 Penlwydydd Hapus: Birthday surprises with Arfon Haines. Davies. An ex-prisoner of war is reunited with old friends (9883028). 8.30 Farn F Du Fw? Drama series set in a valleys comprehensive school. Something seems to be troubling Rhys. Will Rhys be successful on the rugby field? (1158754). 9.00 I do! (7622222). 10.00 Glorious (944520). 11.05 Bob and Margaret (846515). 11.35 Whose Line is it Anyway? (8007167). 12.05 Dispatches (8472224). 1.05 Trial and Error (7134477). 2.05 Close.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESSE

JON SPEELMAN

IVAN SOKOLOV increased his lead to a full point in Hastings on Tuesday with a win against Tony Miles: Miles had sacrificed his pawn in the opening but then neglected the chance to go into an inferior but tenable endgame and came under a withering attack. Meanwhile Matthew Sadler drew with Sergei Shipov and Emms drew with me; but Ponomarev won as Black against Saltaev and 17-year-old Laurent Fressinet shocked Jim Plaskett with thunder out of an apparently clear sky.



With two rooks to go, the scores were: Sokolov 5.7.7. Shipov 4.5. Sadler and Ponomarev 4. Emms and myself 3.5. Fressinet 3. Miles and Plaskett 2.5 and Saltaev 2. In a standard Sicilian, Plaskett delayed casting until attacking the d5 bishop, so that White couldn't attack h7 starting with e5. When he got in ...e5x4 Black appeared to have the advantage and the pawn sacrifice 22... d5 opened up the bishop's diagonal towards g2.

In the diagram, White has just taken aim at g7. Normally with three pawns in front of the king and plenty of defenders this should be no problem. So 27... Qb4? was quite natural until it got hit with the vicious 28 Rd7!! teeing up for 29 Rxd8! After the game, I looked briefly with Fressinet in search of a defence here. The best I could see was 28... g6 29 Rxd8 Rxd8 30 Bxf6 Rd6 but 31 Qh4 ought to win. This is a position for machines, though, and when I consulted Fritz it suggested the splendid deflection 28... Re3!! 29 Qxe3 Nxd7. Now it wanted to win a pawn with 30 Qe8+ Nf8 31 Qxd7+ Kd7 32 Nd5+. Instead 30 Bxg7 Kxg7 31 Nb5+ is very dangerous, but Kh6! may defend.

Going back to the diagram, if

White: 1. Fressinet
Black: J Plaskett
1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 e6
3 d4 cxd4
4 Nxd4 Nc6
5 Nc3 Qc7
6 Be3 a6
7 Bb3 b5
8 f4 Bb7
9 Nb3 Nf6
10 0-0 d6
11 Qb3 Be7
12 Qb3 Rc8
13 a3 b4
14 axb4 Nxb4
15 Nd4 0-0
16 Ra4 Nxd3
17 cxd3 Rfe8
18 Nde2 Qd7
19 Ra5 e5
20 Qg3 Bb8
21 Ra1 exd4
22 Nxf4 d5
23 exd5 Bxd5
24 Rxa6 Ba8
25 Kf1 Qb7
26 R7a7 Qxb2
27 Bd4 (see diagram) Qb4?
28 Rd7!! Kf8
29 Nf5! Nxd7
30 Bxg7+ Ke7
31 Re1+ Ne5
32 Qxe5+ 1-0
33 Rxd8 Rxd8
34 Kf1 Rxd8
35 Rxd8 Rxd8
36 Rf2 Rb7!
with a big advantage.

POKER

DAVID SPANIER

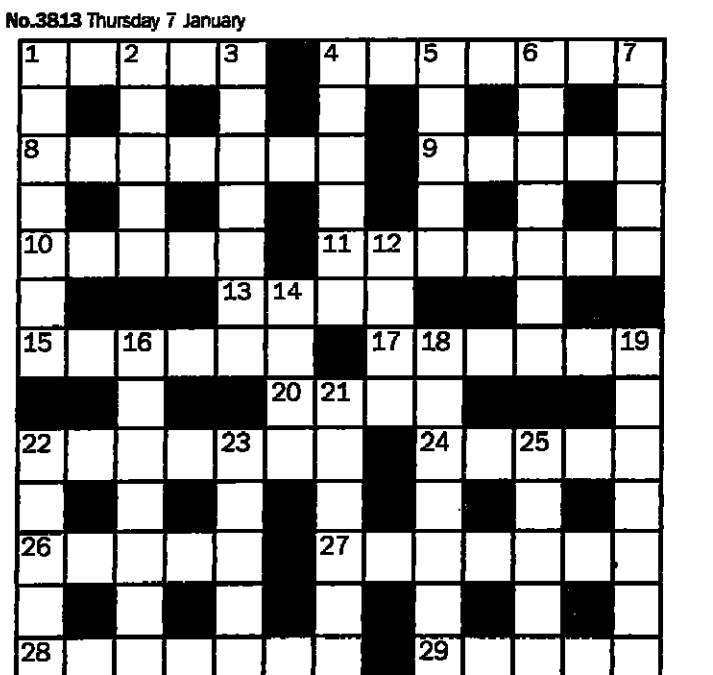
AMID A flurry of contradictory rumours coming out of Las Vegas, it now appears that the 1999 World Series of Poker, in truncated form, will be held at Binion's Horseshoe from 28 April to 12 May. The World Championship itself - which if it attracts the usual 300-plus players, paying \$10,000 each to enter, yields a first prize of \$1m - will be shortened to three days.

It is not yet clear whether the Horseshoe's new owner, Betty Behnen, will give the event the publicity and promotion which her brother Jack was so happy to provide. He is down in Mississippi doing very nicely thank you, and has no intention of coming back to Vegas. The downtown area is suffering badly from a surfeit of casinos on the Strip and elsewhere. The very survival of old-style properties like the Horseshoe down in "glitter gulch" is under threat.

To more cheerful news: a lot of British players will be hitting the Vegas trail for the Rio's "Carnival of Poker" from 10 to 28 January. The Rio is an all-suite resort, just behind the Mirage and Caesars. This annual tournament, with an estimated prize pool of \$3.5m, is proving a major attraction. But the biggest event of the year may turn out to be the Tournament of Champions at the Orleans, from 26 to 28 July. Poker players will always go where the action is.

The European Poker Championship will be held, as last year, at the Club d'Aviation in Paris. 6-14 February, a fabulous venue for poker (104, Avenue des Champs-Elysees). Three hours on the Eurostar and a taxi ride make it easy to reach. Hotels in Paris are not cheap, mais alors, you are not going over there to sleep, are you? Another European event worth noting is the Spring Festival at the Concord Card Casino in Vienna, 18-28 March. How long before they bet in euros, I wonder.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Perfume (5)
4 Fix (7)
8 China, Japan etc (3,4)
9 Written composition (5)
10 Heave (5)
11 Coming into being (7)
13 Rim (4)
15 Drink of the gods (6)
17 Ejected (6)
20 Relative (4)
22 Military fieldwork (7)
24 Bird of prey (5)
26 Small cat-like carnivore (5)
27 Disgusting (7)
28 Kind of frozen dessert (7)
29 Breathing organs (5)
DOWN
1 Crocus (7)
2 Heron (5)
3 Windpipe (7)
4 Standing in for (6)
5 Newspapers (5)
6 Examine (7)
7 Meeting (5)
8 Long period of time (4)
9 Dingy (4)
10 Dead body (7)
11 Implement (7)
12 Slimmers (7)
13 Furthest extent (6)
14 Go over again (5)
15 Extreme (5)
16 Gather (5)
SOLUTION TO YESTERDAY'S CONCISE CROSSWORD:
ACROSS: 1 Gnu, 2 Dots (Novelty), 3 Colonial, 8 Fall, 9 Nuts and bolts, 10 Spotty, 12 Defiant, 14 Scarlet fever, 18 Iota, 19 Renegade, 20 Scout, 21 Eke, DOWN: 1 Grown-up, 2 Unborn, 3 Dread, 4 Left off, 5 Saint, 6 Bigamy, 11 Tornado, 12 Defiant, 13 Abridge, 15 Cross, 16 Error, 17 Vague.

THURSDAY TELEVISION

BBCI

BBC2

ITV Carlton

Channel 4

Channel 5



ROBERT HANKS

TELEVISION REVIEW

The males come in three distinct forms—the blue-throated ones, who are steadily dependable males; the red-throated ones, who tell their territory and aggressive statements from the blue-throats; and the yellow throats, who sneak past the blue-throats by pretending to be females. It was fascinating, but the interaction was so busy sorting them out into "advocator" and "transferee" that I never got round to the business of how these competing strategies might have evolved, and what makes them effective. Mustn't grumble though.

The programme did have its share of amazing stories – like the male phallosome, a small musculary phallus single foot long that male blue whales use for frantic sexual activity ends in death from sheer exhaustion and the BBC Natural History Unit's traditionally extraordinary camerawork. I particularly liked the red-footed booby, a small Puerto Rican bird which actually performs a monomial to attract females. I rather like the threat at this point, but I gather that once he has mated successfully, he takes the eggs back to the roost where they play with cymen lens, and sleep in cymen lens. Or am anthropomorphizing?

Of course, male sexual

sist at one turning point being handed with the idea while the worthwhile swans off down the river, to talk of immorality creating material seems to imply that material can hang on another way of doing things that they increase a dream of a fairer society where love and kindness will strive together for the greater good.

This peculiar anthropomorphic strain kept cropping up. At times it was just plain funny, as when the male angler fish was characterized as the female's "filthiest sexual slave," a description which carried a whiff of heavy oil and leather. Elsewhere it was more pertinent, invoking us to admire the plumage of a mandedo crane, the attraction cautioned us that they were "seemingly" — but displaying for sexual dominance, as if that fact and you could hear the crack of the whip behind their gorgeousness.

But the main problem was that this sort of language just got in the way of understanding. Take the case of the California side-blotched lizard.

display has its part to play in humans as well as third lizards. Watching last night's documentary on the Castro revolution, Fidel (C), it was obvious that he is as far from so much because of the political acuity as because of the inhuman heart. The very week of the revolution, an American TV news service was asking whether he intended to bring his beard with him to the U.S. and, at his bedside, it was comparatively wise, I venture, abstention.

As seems to happen with Castro, Reginald Brown's film was dazzled by the personality and not over-inclined to be critical. We were told about Castro's "overseeing personally every aspect of Cuban society," and cautioned that "human rights are in the eye of the beholder" — which sounds like a euphemistic way of describing a dictatorship. Still, one fact seems indisputable: America's blockade of Cuba is one of the longest snafus in modern history, a piece of political inhibition which has less to do with ideology or practical politics than how much they are. Why can't they just grow beards?

6.00 Business Breakfast (226859) 7.00 News (1) (45557) 8.00 Kilroy (5) (1) (683533) 9.45 The Varieties Show (5) (1) (637633) 10.55 News: Regional News: Weather (1) (773373) 11.00 Peel (5) (1) (725591) 11.25 Can Cook: Won't Cook (5) (1) (735591) 11.55 News: Regional News: Weather (1) (735591) 12.00 Call My Bluff (5) (1) (637633) 12.30 Beatles Dog House (5) (1) (642533) 1.00 News: Weather (1) (637633) 1.30 Regional News and Weather (685533) 1.40 Neighborhood (5) (1) (655054) 2.05 News (1) (735591) 2.35 Going for a Song (5) (637633) 3.20 The Weather Show (5) (1) (232329)

3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (1) (5) (621833) 3.45 The Littlest Fox Shop (5) (232329) 3.55 Pocket Doctor (5) (1) (624459) 4.00 Fraggle (5) (1) (637633) 4.35 Come From Africa (5) (1) (637633) 4.45 The Cat in the Hat (5) (1) (637633) 5.00 Newsworld (5) (1) (655054) 5.10 See How They Run (5) (1) (672249)

5.35 Neighborhood: Amy is tired of living in Anne's shadow, by all accounts (5) (1) (723373)

6.00 News: Weather (1) (232329)

6.30 Regional News (1) (232329)

7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson: Including a report on the astronomical price people are willing to pay to see this year's total eclipse of the sun (5) (1) (723373)

7.30 Eastenders: Matthew is underwhelmed by the birthday celebrations (5) (1) (45557)

8.00 Vets in Practice: Trade makes a potentially fatal error in the operating theatre, while Craig faces an uphill battle to save a cat called Boole (5) (1) (723373)

8.30 Fat Free: A sort of delving docu-soap, showing three slimmers as they try varying methods of losing weight (5) (1) (6571)

9.00 News: Regional News: Weather (1) (637633)

9.30 [FIVE] Breakfast (Mel Gibson 1985 US). Mel Gibson joins the Scottish nationalists to Oscar-strewn effect. See film of the Day, below (5) (1) (7887220).

12.30 Faces of Islam (5) (6859137)

12.40 [FIVE] A Professional Gun (Garcia Cortez 1970). Franco Nero and Jack Palance laugh (unofficially) and bare their teeth at each other in this satirically baroque pasta western about a gunslinger (Nero) hired to escort some alien to Texas during the Mexican Revolution (Followed by *Weather*) (452553)

2.25 John's BBC News 24 (6553853). To 6am.

7.00 Children's BBC: Open a Door (5) (5555981) 7.05 Teletubbies (5) (232329) 7.30 Yoga Treasure Hunt (1) (448755) 7.55 Blue Peter (5) (1) (2053620) 8.30 1st-2nd (5) (1) (637633) 8.40 Police Dog Shorts (682755) 8.55 Open a Door (5) (1) (448755) 9.00 Fiddle Fiddle Bird (7005959) 9.10 The Phil Snavers Show (5) (6534459) 9.35 The Phil Snavers Show (5) (501891) 10.00 Teletubbies (5) (23007)

10.30 [FIVE] Cervantes (Vincent Sherman 1987 FTVS). Horatius Bonar plays the 16th-century author of *Don Quixote* in the Euro-mish-mash which is indeed quixotic, co-starring in the likes of Gina Lollobrigida, Louis Jordan and Fernando Rey. But don't turn it in if you want to know anything about the real Cervantes (5) (58442)

12.30 Working Lunch (62252) 1.00 Fiddle Fiddle Bird (5) (7343758) 1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour (2659520)

2.10 World Darts: Action from yesterday's (good girl, not even today's) second-round matches from the Lakeside by Tony Green and John Part (5) (6251546)

6.00 Silver Treat: Deep Space Nine: Deep Space Nine prepares to face a joint Dominion and Cardassian attack (5) (1) (725671)

6.45 Sliders: Sci-fi drama series about four people who can teleport themselves to parallel universes. The Sliders finally have a chance to return home (5) (1) (67054)

7.30 First Sight: A topical investigation into an issue affecting London and the South-East (5) (1) (67054)

8.00 The Travel Show: The best of the various travel shows returns with Juliet Morris in Gran Canaria, Jim White on a 48-hour break in Reykjavik, and a Cambridge family trading places with one from Paris (5) (2372)

8.30 Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machines: Formula One F1-3000 powerboat racing and 500mph Reno air race in Nevada (5) (1) (4153)

9.00 Meet the Ancestors: Archaeologist Julian Richards visits a team working on one of the most impressive Anglo-Saxon graveyards ever unearthed. It was discovered on a US airforce base in Suffolk (5) (6833)

9.30 [FIVE] Fat Files - a Horizon Trilogy: The first of three documentaries on the nation's health and weight. See *Documentary of the Day*, below (5) (1) (23045)

10.20 Meetings with Remarkable Trees (5) (338002)

10.30 Newsnight: With Jeremy Paxman and the "new look" news programme (which, on Monday, seemed rather like the old version) (1) (678523)

11.15 World Darts: Ray Stubbs finds himself at the Lakeside Club in Surrey (Followed by *Sliding Forewards*) (5) (788628)

12.00 The Phil Snavers Show: Snavers enters the coldest in the services golf tournament (5) (65779) To 12.30am.

6.00 GMTV (6035559)

9.25 Trials (5) (1) (232329) 10.25 The Morning (1) (6276755) 12.30 Your Show (647633) 12.35 News: Weather (1) (62239) 1.00 Local (5) (1) (637633) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5) (1) (637633) 2.15 Home and Away (5) (1) (655445) 2.45 Supermarket Sweep (5) (1) (62239) 3.15 TV News Headlines (1) (215744) 3.20 London Today (1) (215497)

3.25 Children's ITV: Mopsticks Shop (1) (215744) 3.35 The Adventures of Dimples (5) (688644) 3.45 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (1) (687337) 4.00 Lavender Castle (1) (619449) 4.15 David's Laboratory (1) (7338952) 4.40 Word Which (5) (1) (7270755)

5.10 Home and Away (5) (1) (655445)

5.40 News: Weather (1) (672219)

6.00 London Tonight: Regional news update for the capital and the South-East, including a local weather bulletin (1) (397)

6.30 Videotack: Margherita Taylor with the latest charts and "gossip" from the music world (5) (649)

7.00 Emmerdale: Zak takes a gamble with baby Belle, and Tilda accuses Betty's suspicion (5) (1) (3454)

7.30 First Edition: The winners and losers in the South. Esch's railway self-off, including the managing director of Thameslink, facing up to frustrated passengers on one of his own trains. Oh, the sport (5) (1) (639)

8.00 Who Wants to be a Millionaire? Cullie exclaiming this, in a frustrating kind of way (the contestant sometimes seem hand-picked not to be too bright) (5) (6904)

8.30 Neighbours from Hell: Another franchise of feuding neighbours and real-life distress for our delectation and amusement (1) (6833)

9.00 The Knock: A new series of cartoons yams kids of here, outside our offices at Canary Wharf, where a lot of dubious gazettes have been burned down on a boat. It's all to do with renegade Russian scientists smuggling plutonium to South Africa (5) (1) (7129)

10.00 News: Weather (1) (22533)

10.30 London Tonight (1) (275759)

10.40 Thursday Night Live: Nicky Campbell and Andrew Neil host the controversial live debate show (5) (7567202)

12.10 Music Movies (5) (689038) 12.45 The Jerry Springer Show (7223559) 1.30 Prime TV (67872) 2.00 Alan Stiles of the Highway Patrol (611834) 2.20 TV: Alan Stiles of the Highway Patrol (611834) 2.40 Supermarket Sweep (5) (1) (62239) 3.15 TV News Headlines (1) (215744) 3.20 London Today (1) (215497)

6.00 Sesame Street (2327) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (5) (65597) 8.00 The Comedy Show (5) (1) (266715)

9.35 [FIVE] The House on Telegraph Hill (Robert Wise 1951 US). Including film noir starring Valentina Cortese as a concentration camp survivor who takes on the identity of a dead fellow inmate (the wealthy mother of a San Francisco boy). Back in the postwar States, she meets it with the critics' guidance, suggestively played by Richard Basehart (1) (4344202)

11.15 Road to Success (655442) 11.30 Heret One I Made It (620) 12.00 Sesame Street (25549) 12.30 Sesame Street (6058) 1.00 Per Rescue (65449)

1.30 [FIVE] Unhanded (Henry King 1955 US). Susan Hayward and Tyrone Power. The two men each other against a Chien-Sheng South Africa in the wild and costume epic about the Great Boer War (1) (63210)

3.30 Hampton Court Palace (755) 4.00 Film to One Light (5) (459025) 5.30 Per Rescue (5) (1) (249)

6.00 Dishes: Cooking and dining game show as three contestants compete against the clock to create a dish that will win them a dinner date at a top restaurant (5) (1) (637633)

6.30 Hollywood: Kala decides she wants revenge (5) (1) (637633)

7.00 Channel 4 News: Weather: Hampton news show including headlines at 7.30pm (5) (1) (457538)

7.55 Cuban Fables: More everyday tales of Cuban life (5) (1) (637633)

8.00 Secret History: Why was the alibi in the Norwegian Sea of aircraft carrier 4445? Why was the two secret destroyers in June 1940? And up and the official report deemed "correct" until 2047? The relatives of the 1500 seamen who perished demand some answers in the repeat investigation (5) (1) (2007)

9.00 [FIVE] Dispatches: Male victims of domestic violence speak out. See *Investigation of the Day*, below (1) (6571)

10.00 Rising Damp (5) (1) (26303)

10.30 Cold Turkey: Fly-on-the-wall look at the office Christmas party, featuring a bear at a live-state hotel, a party in Sheffield, a half-dressed hen party and a celebration funded by some cost-conscious accountants (257200)

11.05 Any McBeal: The pilot episode, for those who never heard the pilot of the nifty sitcom (1) (5) (1) (651129)

12

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

FOOT FLIES (3:00pm B02, right) Wouldn't you have guessed that there might be a genetic cause for obesity? Not all obesity is bad, but some people who blame their weight problems on their "metabolism" might have a point in thinking that their biology is the problem. It's to do with a recently discovered hormone called leptin, apparently which travels through the blood to the brain where it turns off the feelings of hunger. No leptin, no feeling of having had a good meal. It's not quite as easy as eating leptin to the blood, however, as Wall Street (which pumped millions into the hormone) has since discovered to its cost. The next in a four-ton trilogy on the science of fat.



INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

DISPARITIES (from C, right) The biggest ever survey of male victims of female violence – or “husband battering” – taking in depth to 100 men who have been raped, killed, battered with sadism, and practiced jammies in their ears and been smothered with pillows while they slept. The abuse goes on for years, apparently, and begs the questions why (a) the physically larger men don’t hit back, or (b) they don’t just walk out? The reasons will be familiar to female victims of male violence. “Because I loved her,” say the husbands of these aggressive control freaks. “I thought I could change her. Instead, she changed me.”



FILM OF THE DAY

BRAVEHEART (3:30pm, BBC, 14/11) Five Oscars for what is essentially a rather sloppy costume adventure? Perhaps only John Toll's photography was worthy of the going, because otherwise this is a heavily oil-slicked piece of Hollywood workmanship (what is the average age of those *Academy Award* winners?). Mac, Gibson co-produced, directed and stars as William Wallace, the Scots freedom fighter and scourge of those effeminate English. Patrick McGoohan is a suitably bloodless, cool-his-eyes-as Edward I, while Sophie Marceau plays poor, willow, *Braveheart*'s real-life best friend, Isabella. However, with a dull, wrenchingly realistic battle scene last,



FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

SIR JOHN DANIEL

What is special about graduates?



Employers find graduates lack some of the skills needed to manage today's uncertain world

The 1990s have seen the rise of the graduate. The graduate has become a household name. But what is a graduate? Is it a person who has completed a university degree? Or is it a person who has the skills and knowledge to manage in the 21st century? The answer is not as simple as it seems. In the 1990s, the graduate has become a person who is expected to have a wide range of skills and knowledge. These include the ability to communicate, to work in a team, to be creative, and to be able to manage in a fast-changing world. The graduate is also expected to have a good understanding of the world around them, and to be able to apply this knowledge to their work. This is why the graduate is so highly valued by employers. They see the graduate as a person who is able to take on the challenges of the 21st century, and to make a positive contribution to society.

OPEN EYE

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI COMMUNITY
e-mail: alum@open.ac.uk
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Production Editor: **Ken Weisby**
OU Correspondent: **Yvonne Cook**
Open Eye ♦ The Open University ♦ Walton Hall PO Box 825 ♦ Milton Keynes MK7 6AA
Published with The Independent on the first Thursday of every month

Women will be

I HAVE SEEN the future - and it's looking good. This could be the slogan for the future of women in the workplace. The most ambitious projects in the world are being undertaken to ensure that women are fully represented in the workforce. This is not just a matter of equality, but of efficiency. Women bring a different perspective to the workplace, and this is what makes them so valuable. The future is bright for women, and it is up to us to ensure that they are given the opportunity to shine.

Time to celebrate as you graduate

CONGRATULATIONS to all who have completed your degree. This is a momentous occasion, and it is time to celebrate. You have achieved something that many people only dream of. You have shown that you are capable of hard work, of perseverance, and of achieving your goals. This is a testament to your abilities, and it is a source of pride for you and for your family. Take time to enjoy this moment, and to share it with those who are important to you. You have earned it, and you deserve it.

Organised by The OU LINK, in partnership with the Association of OU Graduates (AOGU), the OUBS MBA Alumni Association, and the Students Association (OUSA), the dinners will cost about £20 per head and will celebrate 25 years of graduations, 30 years of the OU and its partnership with the BBC, and 250,000 awards.
The actual date of the University's receiving the Charter is 23 April, which is coincidentally Shakespeare's birthday and St George's Day. That evening the Vice-Chancellor will be hosting the OU's first event for graduates in the US, in Los Angeles.
11 Sept
11 Sept

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday, 7 January 1999

06:45 am The Politics of Equal Opportunity (D103/2)
How the American Civil Rights movement influenced the English Sex Discrimination and Race Relations Acts
06:35 am The True Geometry of Nature (MS221/12)
How an intriguing mistake by one of the world's greatest mathematicians is leading to real commercial applications.

Thursday 21 January

00:30 am Passing Judgements (A103/7)
Exploring today's view of the Roman Games as bloodthirsty and voyeuristic, with a look at their importance in Roman society.
01:00 am The British Family: Sources and Myths (A103/6)
From a Roman tombstone to a 20th century movie, how valuable is historical evidence in the study of the family?
01:30 am The French Revolution: Impact and Sources (A103/8)
Historical evidence helps paint a vivid picture of events leading up to, during and after the Revolution.
06:45 am TV - Images, Messages & Ideologies (D103/9)
What sort of messages television news and soap operas are transmitting through broadcast Movement (NU120/8) had a hand in the creation of an 18th century gilette, ballet, and an African dance routine.

Friday 22 January

00:30 am Hotel Hilbert (MS221/3)
The strange mathematical world of infinity at a hotel which is always full but still has guests.
01:30 am The 1997 Election - Traditions, Failures & Futures (D103/17)
Was the outcome of the 1997 election a turning-point in British political history, and what comes next under New Labour?
01:30 am Rousseau in Africa: Democracy in the Making (A103/10)
Finding out how recent events in South Africa reflect philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau's theories on human nature.
06:45 am Questions of National Identity (D103/11)
What makes a person feel English, Scottish or British and how is a sense of national identity constructed?
06:35 am Designer Rides: The Junk and the Journey (MS121/3)
How maths puts the thrill into rollercoaster rides.

Monday 25 January

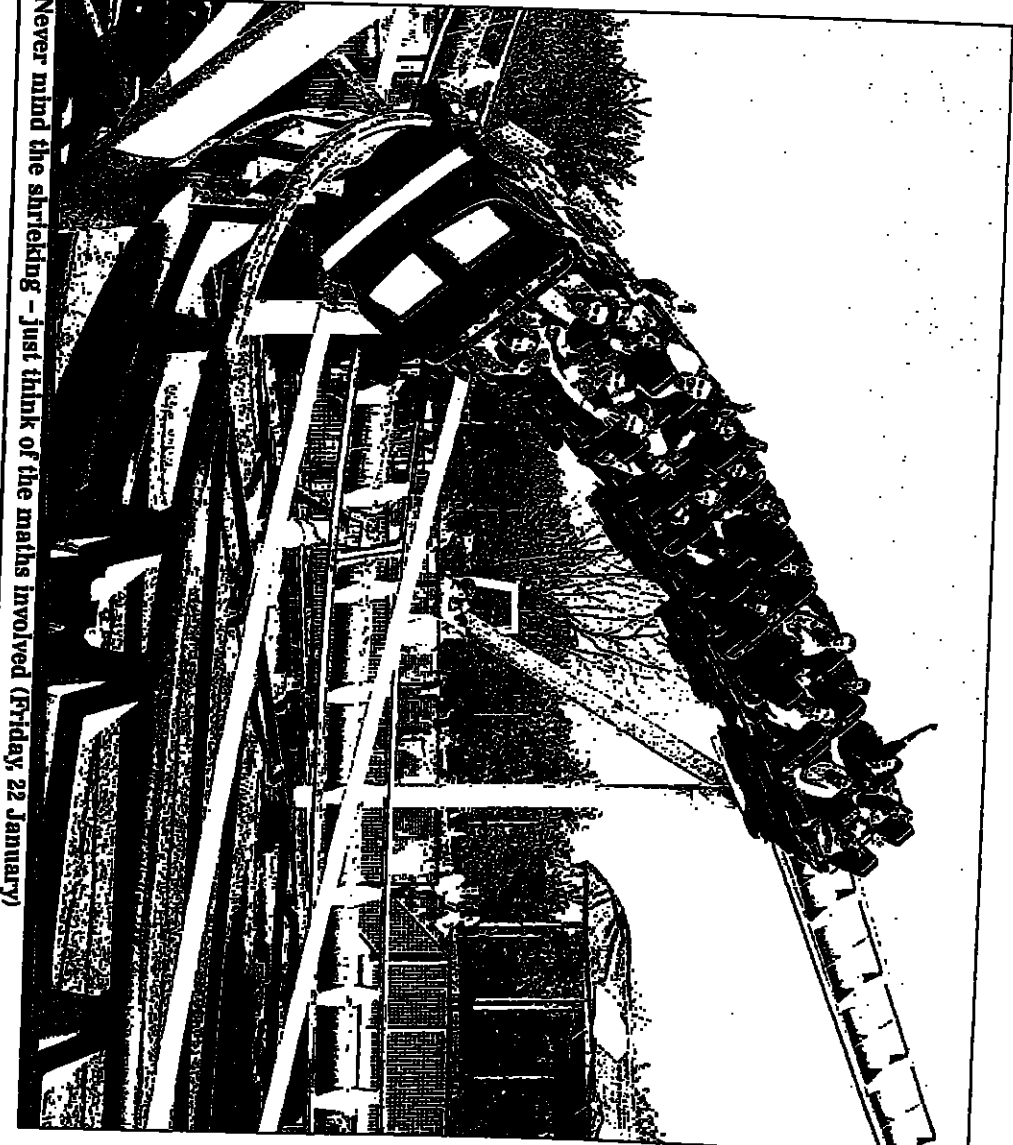
06:45 am Age and Identity (D103/11)
How does growing older affect the way we think about ourselves and our role in the community?
06:35 am Deadly Quarrels (NU120/6)
How two very different individuals turned to mathematics to analyse conflict and its causes during the First World War.
Tuesday 26 January
00:30 am Waiting Their Turn - Minorities in a Democracy (A103/11)
What options are available to people who feel their views aren't represented in Parliament?
01:00 am Art - A Question of Style (A103/12)
Examining paintings by Louis David and Casper Friedland to discover what the labels 'Classical' and 'Romantic' mean in art.
01:30 am Putting on the Style (A103/13)
Songs from the Romantic and Classical periods reveal some essential differences between these styles.
06:45 am Regions Apart? (D103/12)
Two businesses, one in Sunderland, the other in London, demonstrate how different UK regions relate to the global economy.
06:35 am Building by Numbers (NU120/7)
From facades to room dimensions - how some of the most beautiful buildings rely on maths for their proportions.

Wednesday 27 January

00:30 am What is Religion? (A103/14)
Members of the Hindu, Jewish, Catholic, Anglican and Muslim communities in Liverpool discuss the differences and similarities between their faiths.
01:00 am Looking for Hinduism in Calcutta (A103/16)
The richness of Hindu life and worship in India's most diverse city.
01:30 am Wales in Wales (A103/18)
How Wallace's early life in Wales prompted his discovery of the theory of natural selection - independently of Charles Darwin.
06:45 am The Traditions & The Environment (D103/14)
What's new and what's traditional about present day thinking on the environment?
06:35 am The Spiral of Silence (MS121/4)
Why opinion polls failed to predict the result of the 1992 General Election.

Thursday 28 January

00:30 am Was Anybody There? (A103/17)
Tables shook, people levitated and



Never mind the shuffling - just think of the maths involved (Friday 22 January)

OPEN VIEW - BBC LEARNING ZONE/15

OPEN VIEW
SKEWEN 21 003 GNMW07700A EBU

01:00 am Mosaic Hispano (L140/1)
Members of the growing Spanish-speaking community in Los Angeles describe their roots around the world and life in the city.
01:30 am Picturing the Genders (A103/24)
Examining the traditional view of history in which men do the painting while women do the posing.
06:45 am Septeent Mestere at the Court (A319/9)
Author John Arden, director Lindsay Anderson and actor Ian Bannen talk about the first production of Septeent Mestere's Dance.
06:10 am The Encyclopedia (A206/1)
The great 18th century French encyclopaedia, based on a vision of a rational society served by science and technology.
06:35 am Dinosauria on Anjou (L120/1)
Spend a quiet Sunday relaxing with the people of Anjou in France.

Wednesday 3 February

00:30 am The Arch Never Sleeps (MS120/7)
How massive structures like Gothic cathedrals, which were built of stone using very little mortar, have survived for eight centuries.
01:00 am Sporting Achievements (MS120/2)
Following a glider race above the French countryside to discover the mathematics behind unpowered flight.
01:30 am The Secret of Sporting Success (MS120/3)
To be the best at any sport, you need the secret of success - and maths can help find it!
06:45 am Chinese of Opinion (T102/50)
How accurate are the global warming facts reported by the mass media?
06:35 am Just Swamphen - The Geometry of Patterns (A336/1)
There may seem to be limitless patterns on wallpaper - but mathematically speaking there are only seven.

Thursday 4 February

00:30 am Sex and the Single Game? (SIX20/1)
Recent research suggests a possible link between homosexuality and genes. What might this mean for society's attitudes?
01:00 am The Art of Breathing (SIX20/2)
An exploration of the intimate relationship between breathing and heartbeat, physiological demands, emotions and the conscious mind.
01:30 am Galapagos - Reesearch in the Field (S324/00)
How animal physiologists are working to help ensure the survival of the unique fauna of the Galapagos Islands.
06:45 am Reindeer in the Arctic (S305/1)
Two species of reindeer which have evolved to survive in extremely cold environments.
06:10 am Why We're Now? (U205/1)
The variety of attitudes that people have towards health and illness.
06:35 am Brief Encounter (U205/10)
Medical consultations from both the doctor's and patient's perspective.

Friday 5 February

00:30 am Open Advice - A Different Way of Learning (INTOU/1)
From home study to group tutorials - OU students get more than just a piece of paper.
All programmes are on BBC2
We regret that Videopack cards have not been issued for this month's programme guide

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR 1-2 WEEKS' RESIDENTIAL TEACHING WORK THIS YEAR?

Residential School Tutorial Staff

The Open University is looking for people who have at least a first degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject, have either had experience of, or are interested in, adult learning and can adopt a facilitative student-centred approach to teaching. Appointments are offered for the Open University's Easter and Summer residential schools in 1999. The schools will be held between 3 July and 28 August. Accommodation is provided, usually in standard undergraduate rooms, and you will need to be fully resident at the site throughout your appointment. Schools will be held at Bath, Durham, Heriot Watt, Keele, London, Manchester, Nottingham, Reading, Stirling, Sussex and York universities. Most schools run at only a few of the sites and you would normally be appointed to the site nearest to your home.

Education

The residential school forms part of the course Effective Leadership and Management in Education, which is a module within the University's MA in Education. You are expected to hold at least a master's degree or an equivalent qualification and to have relevant experience and expertise in this area. Experience of facilitating team working would also be desirable.

Arts

The foundation course covers art history and philosophy grouped under the theme of 'READING AND ANALYSIS'; history, history of science and religious studies grouped under the theme heading of 'CONTEXT'; classical studies, literature and music grouped under the theme heading of 'INTERPRETATION AND PERFORMANCE'. The residential school offers a compelling option and for that we would like to appoint arts people who are computer literate. Higher level courses cover art history, history, music, literature and philosophical aesthetics.

Social Sciences/

Psychology/Microeconomics

The foundation course introduces students to key analytical and theoretical issues in social science through examining everyday questions and issues with which they will be familiar and then building up from these. It introduces key concepts in politics, economics, sociology, psychology and geography. At residential school students follow three 'modules' relating to different parts of the course. Tutors will be in pairs except for a Library Module. A commitment to interdisciplinary teaching/learning is essential together with a relevant degree/experience training introductory social science. Higher level courses cover introductory psychology, cognitive psychology, and microeconomics. The relevant specialist degree is important, but there is an equal emphasis on a commitment to team teaching and supporting learning within a structured programme.

Mathematics

All three maths residential schools form part of Level 2 courses. The pure mathematics course covers groups, linear algebra, analysis and geometry. The applied mathematics course covers mechanics, methods and modelling. It is desirable for tutors to be familiar with Mathematic 7 or a similar computer algebra system. The third course is an introduction to calculus.

Science

To teach of the Level 1 foundation course residential school you should be a graduate (or equivalent) in physics, chemistry, earth sciences or biology, with some teaching experience. Science residential schools are laboratory based, with tutorial sessions in the evenings. The higher level courses that require tutors are in biology - form and function, brain and behaviour, animal physiology, living processes; earth sciences - geology, understanding the continent; chemistry - organic, inorganic, chemical environment; physics - discovering physics, quantum mechanics.

http://www2.open.ac.uk/persona/emp/jm.htm

Technology

For the Level 1 foundation course residential school, you should have teaching experience and either qualifications or experience in one of the following: waste management and environmental impact; telematics and internet technology; biology or chemistry of water resources; metallurgy/materials science and structural design engineering. For Level 2 and 3 courses, you should have a background in analogue and digital electronics; engineering mechanics (solids); materials engineering and science; innovation and design; systems; or communication skills in a technological context. For the MBA (Technology Management) residential school, you should hold a degree or professional qualification in technology or management and have experience relevant to the management of technology.

Centre for Modern Languages

The second and third courses in the University's French and German language programmes include a one-week residential school. The schools will take place during July and August and will be held at locations abroad and in the UK. Similar teaching programmes will be followed at each site. To teach at the residential school, you should be familiar with communicative teaching methodology, and task-based learning, and be prepared to teach students with varied language learning experience and competencies. For our higher level German courses, a knowledge of aspects of German Studies (eg. specialist knowledge of politics, history etc.) is also desirable. We need graduates (or equivalent) who are native or near native French and German speakers, who have experience in teaching language to adults. Applicants should note that experience or familiarity with open distance language learning would be an advantage, as would experience or familiarity with the Open University and its modern languages courses.

Interdisciplinary Courses

There are two degree level interdisciplinary courses. To teach at the residential school in women's studies you must be a specialist in that area. An interest in cultural and/or media studies would be an advantage, but it is not essential. For the residential school in Third World development you should be a specialist in that area, with a particular interest in one or more of the following in the context of development: technology, gender, culture or environment. For the MSc Development Management school in Institutional Development you must have relevant qualifications and development management experience, particularly in negotiating and brokering and/or facilitating participative training.

Demonstrator Posts

Demonstrators are required to assist and support tutors with laboratory experiments and demonstrate techniques to students, many of whom have had no laboratory experience. We need graduates (or the equivalent) in science, with a knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics or earth sciences, and in engineering and mathematics, with a knowledge of materials science, metallurgy, corrosion, electronics/microcomputing or dynamics.

How to apply

For further particulars and an application form please send a postcard to the Residential Schools Tutors Office, PO Box 82, The Open University, Milton Keynes MK7 6HU or email L.gouldman@open.ac.uk quoting reference IN. Completed application forms must reach the University by Wednesday 27th January 1999.



Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape.

Equal Opportunity is University Policy.

A few headline predictions for 2020 from the Futures Observatory

- India will become part of the European Union
- The nuclear family will be a mother and two children, with fathers an optional extra
- People will routinely have microchips inserted into their brains to store data and communicate directly with computers
- The resting age will be raised to 70
- The Euro will be a big success
- Women will dominate middle management
- The USA will decline economically and lose world political leadership
- Guerrilla groups will make use of networks to spread 'electronic terrorism'
- Space exploration will put human colonies on the moon and other planets by 2050
- Safe mind-altering drugs will be used legally for work and pleasure

Have you got your own views about the future? Contribute to the debate by e-mail to alumni@open.ac.uk

And, perhaps to hedge its bets, David's book also provides a glimpse of an alternative future which could come about if 'dark forces' of pessimism, fear and rigid political thinking gain the upper hand. This is seen as unlikely and, even at worst, will only delay the brighter future.

How are these forecasts made? The Futures Observatory starts from the basic premise that nearly all the technology that will be important over the next 25 years or so has already been developed, and what counts is how we choose to use it. The future will be shaped by the choices which everyone makes. It is an aggregate of our hopes and fears and expectations.



Looking ahead: David Mercer of the Futures Observatory

YVONNE COOK

David Mercer is a senior lecturer in the OU's Business School and a leading authority on strategic business planning and marketing.

FIRST THURSDAY

TV Critic: work for those who can't do a proper job

way, where we thought (Chop) that the *Late Show* was the best of the best. Unlike book or theatre critics, they don't advise you about what's available, or whether to save your money. And then the TV companies read the stuff and say: 'Didn't we do well?' or 'He wouldn't be?' Either way, the critics don't criticise. TV in the way that real-time viewers would. They don't say 'I'm trouble with this' or 'I'm a fan of this'. The Learning Zone, there's hardly any damn thing to watch. That night are repeats from Friday night. They don't do that, because they are not watching the box.

They pick a subject that might show how clever they are or about which they like to carp, and they expound on it - meandering along the way, and telling you more about themselves than you want or need to know - until they've written the required number of words, and then they stop.

Which is an incredibly simple thing to do. As, I hope, I have just proved. REVEL BARKER

On 'Telly Last Week' - only you can cheat by getting the tapes of your choice, hiked round to your house. Possibly by somebody in leather. And then the TV companies read the stuff and say: 'Didn't we do well?' or 'He wouldn't be?' Either way, the critics don't criticise. TV in the way that real-time viewers would. They don't say 'I'm trouble with this' or 'I'm a fan of this'. The Learning Zone, there's hardly any damn thing to watch. That night are repeats from Friday night. They don't do that, because they are not watching the box.

REVEL BARKER

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES: DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

A Senior Lectureship and 4 Lectureships in Psychology (permanent appointments)

Two posts in cognitive psychology, the others in any other area. You should have a PhD and be qualified to teach at the Open University level.

We are looking for creative and productive academics who have a broad and developed knowledge of psychology, and an established or developing track record in research and publication. You should have enthusiasm and vision for developing your research, good communication and writing skills, and an interest in developing multidisciplinary research.

For the posts in cognitive psychology you should have the ability to teach across a range of core topics in adult cognition such as memory, language, perception and reasoning, including both theoretical and applied aspects, and should have active research interests in one or more of these or related areas.

We can offer you strong support for developing your own research, including awards study leave, funding for conferences, travel, equipment and research assistance, and a good research culture offering intellectual challenge and the opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration. The Department has developed research strengths in a number of areas, including discourse analysis, social development and learning, cognitive psychology, neural networks, consciousness studies and theoretical psychology.

This is the opportunity to join a creative, influential and expanding psychology department. The Psychology discipline at the Open University is Europe's largest provider of university-level education in Psychology, offering Undergraduate, taught Masters and Research Degrees and a Postgraduate Conversion Diploma. More than 10,000 students take our courses in the UK and worldwide supported by 500 local tutors.

Applicants will be made on the salary scale Senior Lecturer £30,496 - £34,444; Lecturer A £16,655 - £21,815 p.a. Lecturer B £12,726 - £17,948 p.a. depending on qualifications and experience.

If you would like to discuss this post please contact Richard Stevens, Head of Psychology, at Milton Keynes (01908) 654515, or e-mail: R.L.Stevens@open.ac.uk or Dr Phil Sarno, Dean of the Faculty at Milton Keynes (01908) 654425.

Further details and application forms and access details for disabled applicants are available from Mrs Yvonne Howeywell at Milton Keynes (01908) 654415, e-mail: Y.Howe@open.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: 29 January 1999.

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

Equal Opportunity is University Policy.

<http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/amp/pr.htm>

THE PLANNING DIVISION

Statistical Programmer

We are looking to appoint a Statistical Programmer to join our Statistics Team. The team comprises seven persons and provides statistical data and management information about Open University students and staff to internal managers and to external agencies.

You will be expected to provide technical support to, and co-ordinate statistical programming activities for, the team and to contribute to the statistical and management information service provided by the Statistics Team.

You will need a degree (or equivalent) in mathematics or computer science or statistics, and proven experience in computer programming.

The appointment will be made on Academic Related Grade 1 scale £15,735 - £17,570 p.a. or on the Grade 2 scale £18,275 - £23,651 p.a. depending on qualifications and experience.

Application forms, further particulars and access details for disabled applicants are available from

Viv Crow on Milton Keynes (01908) 652934;

e-mail: V.Crow@open.ac.uk to whom completed

application forms should be sent by Friday 22

January 1999.

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

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<http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/amp/pr.htm>

OPEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Systems Manager (Library)

Applications are welcomed for this new post located within the IT Support and Development Group of the Open University Library Service. There are currently a broad range of administrative and information systems supporting staff and library customers, and you will be responsible for their further development and managing ongoing support.

You will have a good degree in a computer related discipline, and at least 3 years prior experience of technical development and support in a similar customer environment. You will also manage a small support team, and experience of staff management would therefore be advantageous. Proven technical skills will be needed which should include IT Server, WWW, Web server development, CGI programming and Web/database interface development coupled with excellent communication skills and a dedication to user-centred design.

This is a busy post offering an opportunity for continuous challenge and exposure to leading edge technologies. A willingness to be proactive, adaptable and embrace change is therefore essential.

Appointments will be made on Academic Related Grade 3 salary scale £24,591 - £29,048 p.a. depending on qualifications and experience.

For access details for disabled applicants please contact Mary Hunt on Milton Keynes (01908) 652472.

For an application form and further particulars telephone our 24 hour answering service on Milton Keynes (01908) 653866.

Closing date for applications: 28 January 1999.

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

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<http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/amp/pr.htm>

COURSE TUTORS for the Postgraduate Diploma and MSc Programmes in Computing for Commerce for Industry

The University is actively seeking part-time tutors within the United Kingdom for the following postgraduate diploma courses in the Computing for Commerce and Industry programme (CCI).

- Architecture of Computing Systems
- Project Management
- National Database Systems
- Software Development for Networked Applications using JAVA
- Software Engineering
- User Interface Design and Development

What would we expect of you?

The Course Tutor's role is to be the key source of academic support to a group of students through being available by telephone and electronic mail to answer queries concerning course content and study skills, by making and commenting on assignments and by monitoring the progress of students. The Programme is committed to introducing electronic submission and marking of assignments on all courses.

Who do we need?

People from commerce, industry or education, educated to degree level and with an appropriate level of industrial or commercial experience. Teaching experience is desirable though not essential; we are looking for Course Tutors who have the ability to motivate and direct the study of busy, professional people learning at a distance.

What do we offer?

An interesting and often challenging job which will help you develop just as much as your students and will give you the chance to become involved in shaping the computer technologies, engineers and managers of tomorrow.

The Postgraduate Diploma courses are presented annually in May and November, each course running for six months. Course tutors will be employed on the basis that they are engaged to teach the May or November course presentation line, each of which will be for a fixed term of approximately eight years or the duration of the course line, whichever is the shorter.

To obtain an application package and further particulars, which are available on request in alternative formats, please contact:

The CCI/AMT Office, The Open University,

143 Derby Road, Nottingham NG7 1PH,

e-mail: R05-CCI@open.ac.uk This is also the contact for access details.

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

Equal Opportunity is University Policy.

<http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/amp/pr.htm>

FAX: 0171 293 2505

OPEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Systems Manager (Library)

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This is a busy post offering an opportunity for continuous challenge and exposure to leading edge technologies. A willingness to be proactive, adaptable and embrace change is therefore essential.

Appointments will be made on Academic Related Grade 3 salary scale £24,591 - £29,048 p.a. depending on qualifications and experience.

For access details for disabled applicants please contact Mary Hunt on Milton Keynes (01908) 652472.

For an application form and further particulars telephone our 24 hour answering service on Milton Keynes (01908) 653866.

Closing date for applications: 28 January 1999.

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- Architecture of Computing Systems
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What would we expect of you?

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Who do we need?

People from commerce, industry or education, educated to degree level and with an appropriate level of industrial or commercial experience. Teaching experience is desirable though not essential; we are looking for Course Tutors who have the ability to motivate and direct the study of busy, professional people learning at a distance.

What do we offer?

An interesting and often challenging job which will help you develop just as much as your students and will give you the chance to become involved in shaping the computer technologies, engineers and managers of tomorrow.

The Postgraduate Diploma courses are presented annually in May and November, each course running for six months. Course tutors will be employed on the basis that they are engaged to teach the May or November course presentation line, each of which will be for a fixed term of approximately eight years or the duration of the course line, whichever is the shorter.

To obtain an application package and further particulars, which are available on request in alternative formats, please contact:

The CCI/AMT Office, The Open University,

143 Derby Road, Nottingham NG7 1PH,

e-mail: R05-CCI@open.ac.uk This is also the contact for access details.

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FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

DISCIPLINE OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING MANAGEMENT

Lecturer in Information Systems in Technology Management

(Temporary 3 year full-time post based in Milton Keynes)

The Open University's Faculty of Technology Management is the forefront of technology management as an academic discipline. The Faculty's Technology and Manufacturing Management discipline has a successful track record in technology management research and has been instrumental in the development of a number of technology management courses. The Faculty is seeking a Lecturer in Information Systems in Technology Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Lecturer in Environmental Engineering

(Temporary 3 year full-time post based in Milton Keynes)

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SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Lectureships in Education

(5 temporary 2 year posts)

The Open University's Faculty of Education is seeking to fill five temporary lectureships in Education. The posts are based in the School of Education in the Faculty of Education. The posts are based in the School of Education in the Faculty of Education. The posts are based in the School of Education in the Faculty of Education.

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THE OPEN UNIVERSITY DOCTORATE IN EDUCATION
Appointment of Part-time Tutor-Supervisors
Educational Management Line of Study

The Open University's Doctorate in Education (EdD) is a recent initiative designed to meet the needs of professionals in education and related areas who wish to extend and deepen their understanding of contemporary educational issues, to develop opportunities for research and inquiry, and to carry out original research in order to contribute to professional knowledge and practice. The programme comprises both taught and research components. We are now seeking additional part-time tutor-supervisors on the new Educational Management Doctoral Line, to support students beginning their three year research component in May 1999. They will be researching in one of the following areas of study:

- Managing the student's experience
- Managing people
- Managing resources
- Managing the environment
- Strategic management

Tutor-supervisors need a good knowledge of the relevant topic area, supervisory skills and competence, a critical understanding of the research process and a familiarity with the research methods needed for this topic area. All students applying to enter the research component will have already successfully completed taught courses, including one in research methods and one in educational management, and will come with a developed research proposal.

Students, tutor-supervisors and other members of the doctoral team are invited by a committee comprising and panel of supervisors with access to materials and facilities outside the programme. Tutor-supervisors will not need a good knowledge of the relevant topic area, supervisory skills and competence, a critical understanding of the research process and a familiarity with the research methods needed for this topic area. All students applying to enter the research component will have already successfully completed taught courses, including one in research methods and one in educational management, and will come with a developed research proposal.

For further details and an application form please contact Isabelle Gentry, The Open University, London Regional Centre, Portland College, 527 Finchley Road, London NW3 7BG, Tel: 0171 799 0375.

The closing date for applications is 18 January 1999. Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Miltoncom answerphone). Equal Opportunity is University Policy.

<http://www2.open.ac.uk/personal/amy/plm>

RESEARCH FELLOW/ASSISTANT IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

(11m-12m post)

The Open University Business School is one of Europe's largest providers of management education, offering professional Certificate, Diploma and MBA qualifications. The School is also significantly increasing its research capability. The Faculty of Business and Management Research Unit in the School seeks to appoint a full-time Research Fellow or Assistant for the study: Entrepreneurship in Public Services Management. Priority issues and topics include: In April 1998, the study is exploring the role and practice of entrepreneurship in public service management, examining issues of risk, risk and equity, literature survey, a seminar programme a new practice-based approach to research, these will be complemented by survey and case work. The study will focus on public service management and education. Applicants should have a postgraduate degree or relevant professional qualification and, for appointment as Research Fellow, should normally have a PhD. Applicants should have undertaken field research and worked with public managers, be familiar with quantitative methods, and have project management skills.

The appointment will be made on the Research Fellow scale £15,735 - £23,651 p.a. or the Research Assistant scale £13,735 - £17,570 p.a. according to qualifications and experience.

To obtain an application package and access details for disabled applicants contact The School Office, Open University Business School, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA or telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 652965 Fax 01908 653898, e-mail: OUBS-Recruitment@open.ac.uk, stating enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Miltoncom answerphone).

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Interviews will be held on 17 February 1999.

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Learning with London as the classroom

It's just another day's education for Leslie Barson's two children: 10.30 - piano lesson for Louis, 15, while Lily, nine, and her mother go to a cafe and chat until it's time for Lily's own piano class, 12.30 - to Alexandra Palace for an hour's ice-skating, then a game of football, then visiting friends' houses; in the evening, three hours at a North London college for Louis, who's studying for his maths 'A' level. It isn't a 'typical' day for Louis and Lily - who have never attended regular school - because, as Yvonne Cook discovers, there are no typical days

role as a home educator. But her positive experience has made her critical, not merely about how we educate our children, but the whole way we as a society relate to them. "People say to me, 'How can you stand being at home all the time with your kids?' I love being with my kids. Children only get on to you if they don't get good attention for some of the time. Home-educated children are involved in what's going on, they don't need to be noisy and demanding. "When children come home from school, and parents from work, everyone's tired and stressed out. I've had people say to me that by the end of the summer holidays they actually feel they're just beginning to relax and get to know their children."

Leslie is also critical of the way conventional education segregates pupils. "Children in home-based education have the world on which to model themselves - not a very small internalised bubble group of 30 kids they might spend 12 years with. They're out all the time doing all sorts of things, seeing all sort of people. But on the experience of home education adequately prepare people for the harsh realities of life in an intensely competitive world? - "We place so much emphasis on academic work," says Leslie. "But we're not all going to be academics. In a world where things are changing, all the time, what people need is research skills, and the confidence to know who they are."

People say, 'Life is hard out there and you've got to prepare them for it. But if you're going to send someone out to a country that's starving, you don't starve them first - you build a role for the teacher in creative education?' organised by the London Forum of the OVE's Creativity in Education Community, at Kings Cross Conference Centre in London on January 12 at 5.30 pm.

More information: HEAS, PO Box 88, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL9 6AN; Tel: 01707 371854; Education Otherwise, PO Box 7420, London NW8 5GJ; Tel: 0801 518003. The Creativity in Education Community is a national network, based at the OU, of teachers, academics, parents, researchers, home educators and others interested in exploring alternative theories of education and creativity. It is in the process of establishing a series of regional forums. The London Forum is the first of these and meets monthly. More information about the activities of the Creativity in Education Community is available on the Internet at <http://see.open.ac.uk/SIC/creativity>. For details of London Forum meetings contact Mike Leibling on 0171 328 9746

prize from the National Trust after throwing a hand-raising Yorkshire tea party for 32 friends, making the difference between the two types of Yorkshire cakes and raising £50 for the Yorkshire Caring and Learning Trust. She also sings with the Bang Bang National Opera.

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Leslie also runs a Duke of Edinburgh award scheme on Thursdays for the over 12s. Their current range of activities includes volunteer work with local learning-disabled youngsters, canoeing, expeditions, go-karting and conflict resolution.

By the home-educated, 8-to-11s there's a weekly history group where they're currently learning about the ancient Egyptians - through crafts, dressing up as mummies, and visits to museums rather than disbanding study.

Lily also attends a science group run by a top scientist who happens to live locally, and a mother and daughter reading group which Leslie runs once a month. On top of this there are one-of-a-kind visits, and talks or workshops taking in anything from church history to a mobile planetarium.

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Time for a music lesson: Leslie and Louis Barson

don't starve them first - you build a role for the teacher in creative education?' organised by the London Forum of the OVE's Creativity in Education Community, at Kings Cross Conference Centre in London on January 12 at 5.30 pm.

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The future may be bright — but is it pink or blue?

MBA alumni have recently had the opportunity to sharpen their business skills — including a seminar by Meredith Belbin, noted management guru. Simon Newton reports

THEY CAME in quantity. They arrived as "plants", "shapers", and "monitors", and left as Blue, Green and Orange workers. There was even a Pink Panther among them.

This was not an audition for the sequel to *Reboot Dogs* but a recent seminar on effective team-working which was held at Walton Hall for MBA alumni of the OU.

Any manager who has been on an away-day about team-building learns the language of its guru, Dr Meredith Belbin. His seminal work, *Managing Teams* — *Why They Succeed and Fail* (1988), set out the basic team roles needed for a well-designed and effective team and was cited by the *Financial Times* as one of the top 50 business books of all time.

Belbin's team role theory is now a mainstay of management courses. It sets out clearly the case for a team's needing to be a congregation of individuals selected for a purpose, with each member performing to individual behavioural strengths.

He argues that teams need to be deliberately designed with each member contributing a specific role if they are to achieve their goals.

Belbin presented his new thinking about teams with consultant colleague Barry Watson. Arguing for the importance of practical applications of man-

agement research, Belbin reflected that research is just heavy jargon until cast into allegory by implementation. With examples drawn from their experience as corporate consultants, they assured their more theoretical claims were followed through and tested by case studies in development and implementation.

Chalking that early junior-graduate or group of *homos sapiens* painted a primitive form of its team-work theory, Belbin pointed to the power of speech as the key for evolutionary success. *Homos sapiens* became "talkers" and "shapers" who designed their teams with the numbing, stumbling Neanderthal.

Size matters but it is the size of the team rather than the size of the individual brain that wins out.

"We need to operate in the size of groups we can comfortably handle," Belbin argued. "There is a constant trade-off between size and efficiency." Teams are distinctly different from groups. The large unplanned group can create "group-think", the sense of

self-censorship which helps suppress dissenting viewpoints and gives illusions of superiority.

Good teams are carefully selected, small, with specialised knowledge and rotating leadership. Belbin pointed to the example of sports teams and the role of managers in selecting, training and motivating for success.

"If you had a football team with 11 goalkeepers but they didn't know they were goalkeepers..."

In a working world characterised by uncertainty and supposedly, in "team" terms, working in chaos, are there still clear job roles and descriptions? The standard classification for jobs is already redundant.

Already fewer employees have job titles or set roles. Job specifications are breaking down in favour of organisations which lack hierarchy. At the end of the millennium, new working patterns are emerging.

Managers may now brief an appropriate skilled employee who internally completes the task and then gives feedback.

In his new rainbow working world, Belbin offers white work for tasks needing a blank sheet of paper and completely fresh thinking. Grey work for spin-off jobs done at the margins and Pink Belbin's favourite time-consuming task — "imaginary work."

Morelth Belbin: colour coding at work

Leaving delegates to mull over the new meaning of "in the pink" and "off colour", Belbin and Barry Watson looked briefly at why teams fail. Many teams are wrongly selected on criteria of eligibility, availability and acceptability.

Teams need to be built by combining appropriate skills and not based on seniority. Teams are designed with great care to meet the needs and demands of a specific time-limited project.

For Belbin, effective teams consist of carefully colour-coded individuals combining those who demand "Let's get on with it" with those who suggest "Hold on this might be wrong." Teams are small, highly-focused communities of individuals working on clear assignments.

For Belbin, the future probably should be orange but it could also have a hint of blue, green, yellow and pink.

THREE LABOURERS on a building site were asked by a passer-by what they were doing. One said he was breaking stones. Another said he was levelling a living. The third said he was building a cathedral.

Almost a hundred OU Business School MBA alumni came together recently to test this anecdote of management guru Peter Drucker and agent of their own perspectives of the work-places. Gathering at the Prudential Training Centre in Newport Pagnell, this MBA reunion was taking advantage of an intensive updating weekend offered by the business school's alumni association headed by Christine Sargent.

Peter Cook, one of the MBA graduate organisers of the event, had learned from the successful first overseas subscribed experiential residential weekend last year. "We knew our MBAs wanted to see how to make the theory work. It had to involve active as well as reflective sessions as colleagues wanted to share their own experience. It had to be aspirational and we planned it to be a real 'know-how' pool."

For Jeremy Mills, who completed his MBA five years ago, this residential session was what he needed — "This is perfect."

With colleagues constantly "throwing" his MBA course materials from his desk, Richard Davidson found this face-to-face refresher kept up the perceived value of the qualification.

The alumni could choose from a rich mix of workshops and lectures including the latest strategic thinking on human resources, brand management, and knowledge management. Optional seminars included *Reinventing your sources of power*, *Personal Style and Adverts that Work* and the more esoteric *Organisational Theatre of Creative Action* technique developed by the Brazilian theatre practitioner Augusto Boal.

An information point in the building foyer (described by one MBA as an "electronic cuppa hour") offered more spontaneous sessions provided by MBA colleagues.

Using the Drucker quote, Chris Mabey, head of the Centre for Human Resources and Change Management at the OU Business School, compared management to architecture and first building a vision. Working the metaphor hard, Chris offered insights into why organisations are co-created (the buildings) and how to create new management perspectives ("Make your own solutions").

Yet-to-be published research was shared with the MBA graduates demonstrating that management development really added value in an organisation. Getting beyond the rhetoric, Chris drew on recent research from the Institute of Personnel and Development which found that effective human resource management was perhaps the best predictor of business performance in an organisation.

Leslie de Chernatony, Beneficial Bank Professor of Brand Marketing, enthused about the importance of managing brands and reflected on why they thrive or die. He argued for the need to manage actively the functional, rational and emotional elements of a brand. Brands do not necessarily die in the marketplace. The death-rattle can begin inside the organisation. Brands are pulled in different directions.

Leslie's recent experience on a consultancy in Russia showed him brand power at work. "When Russians buy goods they take the eye in to the garage and say 'I want a eye with this number on the side'. Customers go the extra mile to buy the products they really want."

In the west, Lesley consistently brand their jeans by identifying them with rebellion. But what does rebellion mean for each generation? Lesley tried to cover all the bases by employing a young hip agency whose task is to anticipate the cultural and style changes of a generation.

With a robust call to all MBAs — "This is information warfare!" — Professor of Information Management Roland Kaye threw out a challenge to re-link the use of IT within organisations. With IT spending increasing and business productivity going down, Roland argued that the information focus is wrong. "Car drivers spend their time looking out of the windscreen and at the dashboard," he claimed. "Organisations do the same."

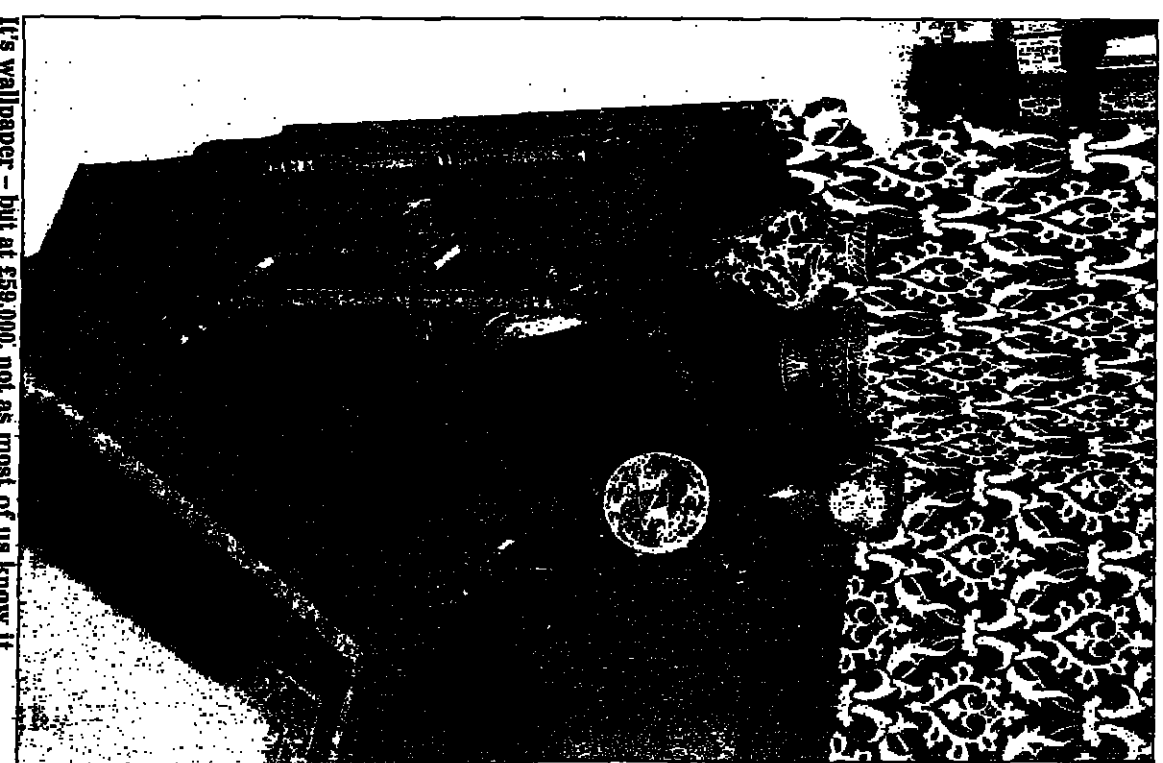
It was no longer an issue of organisations scanning a low priority for "external scanning" a low priority for organisations. "Training" is becoming the key agent of change. Concluding his lecture with a celebration of the skills of computer hackers and of the virtue of knowing not only your competitor's internal phone directory but also who was building their web-site, Roland argued that all was far in information warfare.

Of course the answer was frumenty — you knew it all along. But a week into the new year, can you still remember the questions?

Discover how well (or otherwise) you did in the OU Christmas Challenge

- 1 Michael Jones of Sally Oak who spent £100,000 on legal fees fighting the Leyland trees at the bottom of his garden (January).
- 2 Lord Irvine, justifying the £58,000 bill of the wallpaper to his state apartments (March).
- 3 Dana International, Israel's transsexual entry for the 1998 Eurovision Song Contest, out-competed from Orthodox Jews that her act was blasphemous (April).
- 4 Tony Peasey, member of the Coopers Hill Cheese Rolling Committee, held in secret at dawn after it was banned by Glos County Council (May).
- 5 Netia Reinberg, Octogenarian former captain of Middlesex Ladies on the vote held at Lords in order to force the admission of Women for the first time (Feb).
- 6 Charles Doleman — Pickwick Papers
- 7 Louise M. Alcott — Little Women
- 8 CS Lewis — Chronicles of Narnia
- 9 Laura Ingalls Wilder — The Little House in the Big Woods
- 10 Kenneth Graham — Christmas Underground
- 11 D H Lawrence — The Rainbow
- 12 F Kipling — Diary
- 13 Dylan Thomas — A Child's Christmas in Wales
- 14 S. Bury — Diary
- 15 M. Bond — More about Paddington
- 16 She appeared in court after making a pudding for Eco Warriors at a road development site in Crystal Palace, whose names included Wombat, Mouse and King Arthur
- 17 Incredibly enough the phone was alive with people blaming him for the El Niño weather phenomenon. One man blamed him for his daughter's loss of virginity while stranded in a storm.
- 18 Butch and Sundance, Two Tarnworth pigs, who escaped from an abductor and employed several days high on the hog before being recaptured and saved by a national newspaper.
- 19 Razzleberry, Abnormally low tides left beds of the M4 exposed to the feet of bathers.
- 20 Sir Anthony Hopkins
- 21 Martin Bell MP
- 22 David Hume
- 23 Cumberland Tales
- 24 Mary Overmire
- 25 Princess Margaret
- 26 Wessell
- 27 Rummery from which developed Clarks — mass producing
- 28 The Presses were besieging the city as evening in the sewers and Zoo
- 29 East to West, in honour of the 3 wise men
- 30 Christmas crackers
- 31 Mistletoe
- 32 The Lord of Mistle
- 33 Speech
- 34 A full churchyard
- 35 Wrens
- 36 Tally
- 37 Christmas cards
- 38 Silent Night
- 39 Wales
- 40 Kent
- 41 Hexey, Lincs
- 42 Dewsbury
- 43 Christmas Berry or California Holly
- 44 Blood clotting will be altered
- 45 It's a type of haemophilia
- 46 Abraham Lincoln
- 47 Last Christmas — When
- 48 Merry Christmas everybody — Slade
- 49 A Whimsy Tale — David Essex
- 50 Christmas Rapping — The Waitresses
- 51 Tbo
- 52 Herring
- 53 Knapshill
- 54 Della Smith
- 55 Donito
- 56 Queer
- 57 His Signature
- 58 Hours of Sunshine
- 59 St. Michael
- 60 Pteab Sprout
- 61 Primal Screen
- 62 Spin Doctors
- 63 Pink Floyd
- 64
- 65 Pinkerton's Assorted Colours
- 66 Lieutenant Pigeon
- 67 Judas Priest
- 68 Edinburgh
- 69 Cork
- 70 Barry
- 71 Dublin
- 72 Fear of Beasts
- 73 Elvis Presley
- 74 Thomas Smith
- 75 Parking meters
- 76 T.S. Eliot
- 77 Nine Drummers, drumming
- 78 1880
- 79 The Goodies
- 80 The Lion King
- 81 Brian & Jimmy Greenleaf
- 82 Turnstone
- 83 Lancet
- 84 Lacrimae Christi (Tears of Christ)
- 85 Didier Descamps
- 86 Manchester (Trafalgar Centre)
- 87 Ruby
- 88 Guerilla
- 89 Angel of the North
- 90 Static Electricity
- 91 Rabbit
- 92 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse
- 93 200 Bones in the Body
- 94 Books in the Bible
- 95 6 Points on the Star of David
- 96
- 97 40 Numbers in the National Lottery
- 98 3 Plays by William Shakespeare
- 99 5 Coins in a Fountain
- 100 Martin Luther (1530)
- 101 Dasher, Dansey, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen
- 102 Holland
- 103 USA
- 104 Switzerland
- 105 Sweden
- 106 Finland
- 107 Indiana
- 108 Pinale
- 109 Australia
- 110 The Glassbury Thorn
- 111 A kiss, it's the Latin name for Mistletoe
- 112 Germany
- 113 France
- 114 12
- 115 Mr. Bobby
- 116 The Angels
- 117 Michael Caine
- 118 Hamlet
- 119 Matthew and Luke
- 120 An ancient language common where Jesus lived, and which he probably would have spoken
- 121 Caesar Augustus
- 122 Isaac Newton
- 123 George Washington and his troops
- 124 William the Conqueror
- 125 Bach

The OU Christmas Challenge was set by Martin Higginson.



It's wallpaper — hit at £59,000, not as most of us know it